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FBIS REPORTS



July 26, 1957

✓ MOSCOW TALKS WILL COVER ARMS DEBTS

Damascus, in Arabic to Syria and the Near East, July 25, 1957, 1615 GMT--M

His Excellency Premier Sabri al-Asali has made a statement about the future for Moscow of His Excellency Khalid al-Azm, Minister of State and acting Defense Minister, His Excellency Fakhir al-Kayyali, Minister of Public Works and Communications, and Maj. Gen. Tawfiq Nizam ad-Din, commander of the armed forces. He said that the aim of the delegation's visit to Moscow is to strengthen friendly relations between the two countries and to thank the Soviet Union for its noble attitudes toward Arab peoples--in particular its humane and splendid attitude toward the sinistful tripartite aggression against sister Egypt.

His Excellency Premier Al-Asali continued: "Syria, Egypt, and all the liberated Arab countries are desirous of befriending those who show them friendliness and will oppose anyone who shows them hostility."

His Excellency said: "During its stay in Moscow the Syrian delegation will discuss with the Soviet Government certain details connected with the financial payments due from Syria in return for arms purchased from the Soviet Union."

Meanwhile, a report published by TASS says that the Syrian delegation began its discussions with the Soviet Government today. The Syrian mission arrived in Moscow from Prague yesterday by air. It was welcomed at the airport by Kuzmin, Deputy Premier of the Soviet Union; Marshal Zhukov, Soviet Defense Minister; the Syrian Ambassador in Moscow, the embassy's staff, and a number of Soviet officials.

July 29, 1957

ASALI DENIES SEEKING AID IN MOSCOW

Beirut, ANA, in Arabic Code to the Near East, July 29, 1957, 0900 GMT--M

(Text)

Damascus--Syrian Premier Sabri al-Asali said today that Syria will not accept aid from anyone and will not accept domination by anyone. Al-Asali was replying to a press question about his opinion on the New York HERALD TRIBUNE report that the departure of the Syrian economic delegation under Acting Defense Minister Khalid al-Azm to Moscow aims at asking for economic aid from the Soviet Union in a sum varying between 100 and 150 million dollars because of an economic collapse which now faces Syria.

He said that Syria's economic situation is sound and there is no need for aid from any side. What was published about the alleged economic collapse was fabricated and is a lie. He went on to say that Syria did not accept aid in the past and will not accept it at present or in the future, because he will not be an appendage to anybody and will not accept the domination of anyone in the various political, economic, and military fields.

(Text)

At a time when world public opinion is very much sympathizing with and supporting the struggle of a small and freedom-loving people in Oman and Muscat, Western political circles, on the other hand, are noting with great concern the unexpected meeting which was held in Moscow between certain high political personalities and Soviet personalities. These Westerners have not been able to conceal their increasing anxiety at the development of relations between Egypt and Syria on the one hand and the Soviet Union on the other. They also feel that their attempts to disrupt relations between the two parties will not be successful and that the policy of complete frankness pursued by Moscow in her relations with Damascus and Cairo has triumphed over the policy of deceit and prevarication pursued by the West in its relations with the Arab East.

We do not doubt that the fears of the West can be basically attributed to its superficial understanding of the reality of the new Arab awakening and the political maturity enjoyed by the leaders of thought in Syria and Egypt.

The vacuum theory, which clearly manifested itself some time ago, and which followed many Western military and political plans in the Middle East, shows not only the rigidity of Western political thought, but also the imperialist bases will not change nor will the imperialists be able to realize that Arab nationalism has actually filled all vacuums that could exist in this area. Arab nationalism is an adequate guarantee against any foreign attempt, from whatever source, to infiltrate into the Arab East.

Syria and Egypt represent this sound national policy, and since they follow this policy, they cannot relinquish any part of their absolute sovereignty, freedom, and viewpoints in their march toward achieving the interests of their countries. That is why positive neutrality is a sound basis for their policy. The Soviet Union realized the true situation in the Arab East and so respected the neutrality of the two countries, and supported and founded its relations with Egypt and Syria on the basis of complete respect for the full sovereignty of the two countries and their liberation policy.

As a result of this realization by the Soviet Union, Arab-Soviet relations continued to improve, and shortly afterwards the shadow of doubt which imperialism instilled in the hearts of the statesmen of this country with regard to the intentions of the Soviet Union faded out. Moscow confirmed on many occasions that it follows a firm and unalterable policy and that it pursues this policy with complete frankness without any attempt to doublecross the Arabs.

The understanding which has taken place between Moscow on the one hand, and Egypt and Syria on the other, as partly manifested in the recent Moscow meeting, can only be a natural result of the reciprocal respect which both sides show one another, and the confidence of both sides in the frank policy faithfully pursued by the other side.

As we have already said, the West looks on the recent Moscow meeting with great doubt and anxiety. Had the West tried to understand Syrian-Egyptian policy in a manner devoid of selfishness and imperialist mentality, it would have realized that any rapprochement between the Soviet Union and Egypt and Syria could only have taken place on the basis of the Soviet Union's respect for the policy believed in and pursued by Syria and Egypt--a policy which does not permit the Soviet Union to enter the Middle East although it permits the extermination of imperialist plots infiltrating into the area and dominating it.

AL-BITAR DISCUSSES OWN ARAB TIES

Moscow, in Arabic to Syria and the Near East July 29, 1957. 1200
CMR-II

[Excerpts from Statement of Syrian Foreign Minister Salah al-Din
al-Bitar]

The minister was then asked to clarify the aims of the current talks in Moscow, and said: "The aims were announced in the statement made 2 days ago by the Premier. Briefly, the two parties are trying to settle certain outstanding financial questions."

The foreign minister added: "The main purpose of the trip by the Syrian delegation is to make attempts with all friendly states, including Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union, Italy, and Belgium, to secure their technical and material participation in the implementation of certain vital projects that are necessary for Syria's economic development, on a purely commercial basis and in no way affecting the policy of neutrality pursued by Syria."]X

Aug. 1, 1957

AL-ASALI WELCOMES SOVIET ASSISTANCE

Beirut, ANA, in Arabic Code to the Near East, July 31, 1957, 1600 GMT--M

(Text)

Syrian Premier Sabri al-Asali today welcomed "every assistance which might be offered to us by the Soviet Union or other parties, provided this assistance has no strings attached which would derogate from our sovereignty and independence for which we paid dearly."

Al-Asali expressed this view when asked to comment on a report published by AL-RAI AL-AAM of Damascus by its correspondent in Moscow that the official Syrian delegation now visiting there has reached an agreement with the Soviet authorities to assist Syria by reducing the prices of contracts concluded with Russia from 1.3 billion Syrian pounds to 400 million pounds only, this figure to be paid in installments over a period of 10 years.

Al-Asali said: "If Syria signs unconditional economic agreements, it only seeks by so doing to implement its major projects. The imperialist powers stipulated terms and restrictions for the implementation of these projects which aimed only at strengthening their imperialist influence."

Ihsan al-Jabiri, chairman of the parliamentary foreign affairs committee, in commenting on the same report said that this step by Syria cannot possibly be construed or considered as a departure from the policy of positive neutrality as pursued by Syria." He added: "Our nation should be strong and should seek to acquire this strength from any source. This is because we cannot preserve neutrality while being weak."

Aid Offer Confirmed

Paris, AFP, Radioteletype in English to the Americas, July 31, 1957, 1043 GMT--

(Excerpts)

Damascus--Syrian Premier Sabri al-Asali said at a press conference today that according to information reaching him the Soviet Union had offered "all possible aid for the development of Syria's economy and the financing of its projects." Without mentioning the amount of aid offered, Al-Asali said: "According to information reaching us, the initiatives of the Syrian delegation were crowned with success."

Aug. 2, 1957

MOSCOW DELEGATION GIVEN FULL AUTHORITY

Cairo, Egyptian Home Service, Aug. 1, 1957, 2000 GMT--M

(Text)

Syrian Minister Education Hani as-Sibai today stated that the Syrian cabinet had decided to empower the Syrian delegation now visiting Moscow to negotiate with the Soviet Union "over all matters and subjects through which Syrian would attain power and progress in all fields." The Minister said that the delegation is expected to return from Moscow next week.

The Syrian delegation headed by Khalid al-Azm left for Moscow last week.

Aug. 6, 1957

MOSCOW GUARANTEES SYRIAN SECURITY

Beirut, ANA, in Arabic Code to the Near East, Aug. 5, 1957, 0900 GMT--M

(Excerpts)

A dispatch from Moscow published today in the Damascus paper AR-RAI AL-AAM states that Syrian ambassador in Moscow Jamal al-Farre has been quoted as saying that it can be asserted that Syria's military requirements are now secured as a result of the talks carried out by the Syrian official delegation in Moscow. The newspaper's correspondent in Moscow says that Nikita Khrushchev, leader of the Soviet Communist Party, asserted to the delegation headed by Khalid al-Azm, acting Syrian Minister of Defense, that the Soviet Union adheres to the policy of supporting the Arabs, and that it will never deviate from this policy.

The correspondent adds that Khrushchev told the delegation that Syria's safety is guaranteed, that the Soviet Union will not permit any aggression against it. Khrushchev said he appreciates Syria's policy and attitude and added that Russia seeks nothing from Syria or any Arab country. Russia, he said is interested only in helping these countries oppose the establishment of foreign military bases on their soil. The correspondent says that the meeting at which this discussion took place was attended by Khrushchev, Soviet Premier Bulganin, and Soviet Minister of Defense Marshal Zhukov.

Ambassador al-Farre asserted to the correspondent of the Syrian paper AR-RAI AL-AAM that the new agreement with the Soviet Union "will help Syria's economic growth and development and will also help Syria carry out its productive projects."

Khalid al-Azm and Dr. Fakhir al-Kayyali returned to Moscow yesterday from a tour of Soviet towns. Al-Azm told the AR-RAI AL-AAM correspondent that the countries which do not cooperate politically with the West will not be choked economically. There were many ways to insure their trade and economic progress, he said. Dr. al-Kayyali said: "The Soviet leaders asserted to us that they do not want bases, oil, or any concessions in our countries in return for their aid to us."

(Editor's Note:.. Beirut, ANA, in Arabic Code to the Near East, Aug. 3, 1957, 1010 GMT reported that Foreign Minister al-Bitar told ANA that the no government statement concerning the agreement with the USSR will be made until the Syrian delegation returns from Moscow and the cabinet reviews its report.)

Aug. 7, 1957

PRAGUE STOPOVER--It was announced Aug. 6 in Damascus that the official Syrian delegation to Moscow will delay its scheduled date of return to Syria because it has decided to stop in Prague according to Khalil al-Kallas, Minister of Economy, who added that the delegation will arrive in Prague Aug. 7 "for conducting certain economic talks with its leaders." The delegation had already visited Prague on its way to Moscow, and it was previously stated that the delegation is returning to Damascus Aug. 7. (Beirut ANA, Aug. 6, 1957, 1620 GMT--M)

Aug. 7, 1957

MIDDLE EAST REVIEW

(Broadcasts from 0001 GMT to 2400 GMT Aug. 6)

Syrian-Soviet Communiqué:

Damascus radio carries the official communiqué signed in Moscow on Aug. 6 at the conclusion of discussions between representatives of the Syrian and Soviet governments. Details of the communiqué are also given by Cairo radio. According to the communiqué, the Soviet Union will give Syria economic and technical aid. It also notes that further talks will be held on Syrian-Soviet trade. The MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY says the Syrian delegation's return to Syria will be delayed because it has decided to visit Prague on its way home.

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MIDDLE EAST REVIEW

(Broadcasts from 0001 to 2400 GMT Aug. 7)

Aug. 8, 1957

Syrian-Soviet Relations:

The ARAB NEWS AGENCY and Cairo radio report on an interview given the Moscow correspondent of the Damascus paper AR-RAI AL-AAM by USSR Communist Party Secretary Khrushchev in which he "affirms that the Soviet Union will assist Syria and other Arab countries against any aggression." The ANA report adds that representatives of chamoers of agriculture in various Syrian provinces will also go to Moscow "at their own expense" to discuss Syrian-Soviet cooperation in agricultural matters and that the Syrian cabinet has asked Hamid al-Khuja to visit certain East European countries in an effort to get them to increase their imports of Syrian products.

A Damascus commentary on the decision of the USSR to grant economic aid to Syria contrasts the no-strings-attached aid of the Soviet Union with the "meager aid" offered by the West, which "always carries with it conditions that endanger the recipient country's sovereignty and independence." The point that the Soviet aid will not affect Syrian independence is stressed by the Syrian Propaganda Minister in a statement reported by ANA. The agency also reports Syrian Foreign Minister al-Bitar as saying his government has received "general information" about the agreement with the USSR but will get the details from the delegation when it returns next week.

Israeli commentator Moshe Pearlman sees a tieup between the recent Syrian attacks along the Israeli border and the new Syrian-Soviet arms deal. The attacks, he says, were used to create an atmosphere of crisis in order to strengthen the position of Colonel Sarraj and justify the acceptance of Soviet arms. He adds that the USSR, having suffered setbacks in Jordan and Saudi Arabia, was anxious to supply arms as a means of regaining prestige in the area.

TASS reports the departure from Moscow of the Syrian Government delegation after its talks with Soviet leaders. The text of the communique on the visit, previously summarized by TASS, in broadcast both in Arabic and on the home service.

The Czechoslovak home service and CTK devote great attention to the arrival of the Syrian Minister of Defense, using the occasion to point out Czechoslovakia's growing friendly relations with Syria.

S Y R I A

Aug. 6, 1957

U.S. AID HELPS SYRIA WHERE WEST FAILED

Damascus, in Arabic to Syria and the Near East, Aug. 7, 1957, 1115 GMT--H

(Excerpts)

Syria's liberal policy in the international field is based on clear and frank bases. Foremost among these is the principle of cooperation with all states on the basis of equality, and the principle of positive neutrality. Recent events have proved that such an independent and liberal policy was severely opposed by the Western imperialist powers which want their relations with small states to be like that of overlords and subject people.

These imperialist powers have an avowed Middle East policy aimed at making the countries of the area remain permanently backward in industry and weak in military matters, a state of affairs which would make it easy for them to play havoc with the potentialities of the area, impose their influence and domination on it, and assume control of its resources for the benefit of millionaires in the Western capitals.

God has willed that most of the Middle East countries should obtain political independence, and now there remains before them a continued hard struggle for achieving economic independence without which there could be no political independence. Syria was one of the states of this area which freed its economy from subordination to foreign powers.

On this basis, Syria has laid down its economic development programs, paying close attention to raising the standard of living of the people and increasing the prosperity of the country. But the implementation of the huge projects entailed in these programs requires, in addition to natural potentiality, technical skill and heavy equipment which has to be obtained through the assistance of countries which have already gone ahead of us in these fields. In the course of achieving economic development, Syria has declared more than once that she is prepared to accept aid from any country, provided the aid is unconditional and does not affect our independence and sovereignty in ~~any way~~.

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SYRIA
Aug. 8, 1957

KHRUSHCHEV SAYS USSR GAVE ALL ASKED

Urgent cable to the Near East, Aug. 7, 1957, 0915 GMT--

A Moscow daily, Pravda, today carries an interview with N. A. Krushchev, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, in which he emphasizes the importance of the Soviet Union's policy of non-aggression and its support of other countries against any aggression. He says that Syria can rely upon peace-loving peoples in the world in safeguarding its security, and that Israel exposes its neighboring state to danger if it perseveres in its aggression.

Speaking of the Syrian-Soviet negotiations, Krushchev says that "these negotiations, which were crowned with success, are considered the symbol of international cooperation. The Soviet Government has given Syria whatever its delegation has asked for, demanding nothing in return which may affect Syria's sovereignty and independence."

Regarding the Palestine question, Krushchev says: "It can be solved in a manner acceptable to the peoples of the region if foreign efforts to impose a settlement are done away with."

Hamed al-Khuja, Syrian Minister of Agriculture, will leave for the Soviet Union at the end of this month, at the invitation of the Soviet Minister of Agriculture, to visit the Soviet agricultural fair. He will be accompanied by George Khuri, director of the Syrian agricultural bank. Representatives of the chambers of agriculture in various Syrian provinces will also go to Moscow at their own expense to hold discussions regarding agricultural cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union.

At its meeting last night, the Syrian cabinet asked Hamed al-Khuja to visit certain East European countries which import Syrian cotton in order to discuss with authorities there the question of increasing purchases from Syria. The countries which Al-Khuja will visit in his tour were not named.

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SYRIA

Aug. 8, 1957

The world's economic institutions which could make available loans and technical aid in this regard are, however, greatly influenced by American policy which is strongly linked with the policy of the Western imperialist powers. When approached for aid for the implementation of a certain project largely or wholly beneficial to the people, the Western powers themselves withdraw their hand and offer meager aid. Furthermore, their aid, even overlooking its value, always carries with it conditions unacceptable to a country which wants to preserve its prestige and protect its sovereignty and independence.

What is even worse is that the Western powers do not really wish to help, nor do they want us to obtain aid from others. In short, they stand as obstacles to the realization of our economic development.

Soviet Aid

The joint communique issued in Moscow yesterday, following the talks of the Syrian Government delegation with the Soviet Government, came as an important step in wiping out all traces of the blockade which the Western imperialist powers are attempting to impose on Syria. Syria, which has always vowed to abide by the principle of positive neutrality and cooperation with all states on the basis of complete equality, has found the communique a source on which it can rely in obtaining needed technical and economic aid without affecting its independence and sovereignty.

In offering this (aid--Ed.) the Soviet side has no intention of dominating Syria. On the contrary, its attitude is derived from its appreciation of the problems placed by imperialism in the way of Syria's economic development. The Soviet side, therefore, wishes to help Syria to wipe out these problems.

It is to be understood that the results reached by the Syrian side in Moscow are in full harmony with the policy of neutrality and the Bandung Conference resolutions which constitute the main bases of Syria's foreign policy.

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SYRIA

Aug. 8, 1957

Secret Naval Support

Paris, AFP, Radioteletype in French to the Americas, Aug. 7, 1957,
1517 GMT--E

(Text)

Beirut--Quoting an "informed diplomatic source," the pro-Egyptian Lebanese paper AS-SIYASAH has published some sensational details on the Syrian-Soviet talks which have just ended in Moscow with the conclusion of a treaty of assistance in all fields. According to the paper, one of the clauses of the agreement provides for the arrival at the Syrian port of Latakia in the near future of several naval units, including two submarines, the USSR has given Syria.

According to AS-SIYASAH, the USSR has promised to support Syria against any aggression "wherever it might come from." The USSR would supply Syria with "defensive armaments" amounting to 350 million Syrian pounds to be repaid in 20 annuities, the Lebanese paper adds. In addition to the naval units, including the two submarines, Syria would receive modern artillery materiel including radar-controlled antiaircraft guns.

AS-SIYASAH gives some details about the provisions made for the training of Syrian naval and artillery specialists in the handling of the new equipment. It has been agreed, the paper says, that 120 Syrian army and naval officers will be trained at the Polish base of Gdynia; 60 artillery men will at the same time take special courses in Czechoslovakia. As part of the agreements, the Syrian air force will receive new shipments of MIG-17's and jet bombers of the Ilyushin type. A Syrian air force mission will go to the USSR to familiarize the pilots and unit commanders with the handling of these aircraft.

AS-SIYASAH also gives details of the economic aspects of the agreements signed in Moscow. Over a period of 4 years, Syria would receive 650 million Syrian pounds "to make possible the industrial and agricultural development of the country as well as the big works program." Two-thirds of this sum would be repaid in 10 annuities in the form of Syrian merchandise. The series of agreements ends, the paper says, with a cultural convention which, among other things, provides for the exchange of education missions, professors, and of publications.

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SYRIA
Aug. 8, 1957

Aid Blocs Imperialists

Beirut, ANA, in Arabic Code to the Near East, Aug. 7, 1957, 1600 GMT--M

(Text)

Commenting on the Syrian-Soviet joint communique, which was issued last night, Salih Aqil, the Syrian Minister of State for Propaganda and Broadcasting, said: "The communique was frank as it showed that the economic and technical aid which the Soviet Union granted to Syria was unconditional and that it would not lead to any Soviet interference, internally or externally."

Aqil added: "From this, we see that the Syrian delegation asserted two points: First, adherence to positive neutrality and nonalignment with any camp or pact no matter how important it was; secord, the securing of economic aid which will undoubtedly be a strong pillar that will bolster our political path and will block all imperialist tactics which seek to disperse our ranks both internally and externally."

Aqil went on to say: "In addition to the benefits which it will confer on the military force, the economic aid will undoubtedly support the industrialization move in the country and will insure funds for many projects and schemes such as irrigation, railway, and other projects. It is only natural that these projects will insure our economic stability." Syrian Foreign Minister Sa'ah ad-Din al-Bitar, replying to a question about whether the government received detailed information from the Syrian delegation on the results of its discussions and agreements with the Soviet Government, said: "The government received some general information. The government will become acquainted with full details from the delegation after its return."

Al-Bitar added that the delegation which arrived in Prague today will spend a few days in Czechoslovakia to complete the discussions begun with the Czechoslovak officials before its departure for Moscow. The delegation is expected to return to Damascus around the middle of next week.

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MIDDLE EAST REVIEW

(Broadcasts from 0001 GMT to 2400 GMT Aug. 8)

Aug. 9, 1957

Syrian-Soviet Relations:

There are a considerable number of reports from Middle East transmitters on reaction to the outcome of the Syrian-USSR negotiations. According to the ARAB NEWS AGENCY, while many Syrian statesmen have expressed their views in support of the agreement, both the opposition People's Party and the Socialist Resurrection Party--the latter is participating in the Syrian Government--have decided to reserve judgment until they get the full details of the agreement. Syrian Education Minister as-Sibai told ANA that Syria needed the Soviet aid because of the "partial economic blockade" imposed on Syria by the West. He also said Syria "abandoned the idea of launching a domestic loan in view of the harmful propaganda which aroused the citizens' doubts about the economic situation."

A Damascus radio commentary says that Syria was subjected to "an unprecedented economic and political campaign" which lost her a "large portion of her markets" and possibilities for developing her industry and agriculture. That is why the Soviet Union, appreciating Syria's fight to preserve her independence, "felt that Syria ought to be compensated for her sacrifices" and thus was quick to offer aid on the basis of equality, the commentary adds. It also notes that the climate for such aid was prepared by the visits of Shepilov to Syria and Quwwatli to Moscow.

The Beirut paper AS-SIYASAH is quoted by ANA as saying that the Soviet-Syrian agreement indicates the bankruptcy of Secretary Dulles' policies. The same agency reports the Beirut paper AN-NAHAR as saying that the results of the Syrian visit to Moscow are still to be seen. The paper predicts increased Western pressure against Syria and that Syria will become somewhat of a stranger to her neighbors. ANA reports that the Syrian Chamber of Deputies will be summoned to an extraordinary session to ratify the Syrian-Soviet agreement.

Cairo's Hebrew program reports on an interview with "members of the USSR Supreme Soviet" published in the Egyptian paper AL-MASA. The Soviet members are reported as saying that the USSR will supply "all the economic aid requested by the Arabs" and that Egypt "always has the right to demand the evacuation of UNEF from its territory." An Israeli Arabic program carries "a sincere word to the Syrian President from a common enemy," pointing out that the dangers threatening Syria are due to the activities of the "foolhardy young colonel" heading the Deuxieme Bureau urging the President to guide Syria in a new direction.

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S Y R I A

Aug. 9, 1957

SEMILOV PAVED WAY FOR USSR AID GRANT

Damascus, in Arabia to Syria and the Near East, Aug. 8, 1957, 1615 GMT--M

(Text)

Syria has registered a new step toward establishing the pillars of its full independence and the basis of its new policy, and toward insuring the future of its economy. The agreements concluded in Moscow were a natural outcome of the concurrence of Syrian and Soviet views with regard to the need for Syria to preserve its full sovereignty and to continue to pursue the policy of positive neutrality.

During past months Syria was subjected to an unprecedented economic and political campaign. But she was able to emerge from this campaign triumphant and proud. However, she lost a large portion of her economic market and huge potentialities which could have helped tremendously in the development of her industry and agriculture. It has become quite obvious to the Soviet Union that Syria is anxious to preserve her independence and refuses to be subservient to any foreign influence. It has also become clear that Syria is fully and truly determined to defend and strengthen her foreign policy, which repudiates military pacts and alignment to either of the world blocs. The Soviet Union felt that Syria ought to be compensated for her sacrifices for the sake of preserving her sovereignty, and thus showed readiness to offer technical and financial aid on the basis of equality of sovereignty, respect for Syria's policy, and nonintervention in Syria's affairs.

The climate for such aid was prepared when Soviet Foreign Minister Shepilov visited Syria, and when Syrian President Shukri al-Quwatli visited the Soviet Union at the head of a large Syrian delegation. These discussions then developed into frank and clear agreements whose principles and bases were enumerated in the joint communique which was released last Tuesday.

There is no doubt that the activity in the economic field which will follow the release of this communique will be the basic element in developing Syrian economy, and will supply it with the essential impetus which will boost the standard of living here to new levels. Should this Soviet aid, which is definitely based on specific loans, and the offering of essential technical aid make Syria feel secure with regard to the future of its sons and daughters, then it will also make Syria prove to the neighboring Arab governments that the policy of nonalignment is a successful policy.

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SYRIA
Aug. 9, 1957

Syria will also be able to prove that a people determined to dismiss foreign influence is capable of achieving its full aspirations by preserving its independence and freedom without neglecting its vital and essential economic projects for the prosperity of its economy and the development of its society.

Official's Full Agreement

Beirut, ANA, in Arabic Code to the Year East, Aug. 8, 1957, 0930 GMT--M

(Excerpts)

Damascus--The Syrian-Soviet agreement has been received with interest by political and popular circles and the press here. Many statesmen have expressed their views in support of the agreement.

Hani as-Sibai, Minister of Education, last night expressed his satisfaction with the agreement since "our country is in a state of a semi-economic blockade conducted by the Western states with a view to opposing the present regime and opposing us for every action the government carries out abroad." As-Sibai said that the agreement secures the disposing of Syrian wheat and cotton products and likewise secures the implementation of the extraordinary budget for development projects--based upon revenues which Syria could not secure nor obtain "because of the harmful propaganda and the Western states' opposition to us."

For example, he said, among the revenues which the extraordinary budget depended upon were foreign loans. "We sought several times to obtain a loan from the international bank but in vain. We could not conclude any loan with this bank because of its political conditions affecting our independence and impelling us to follow the West's bandwagon. Therefore, we have rejected these conditions. We have also abandoned launching a domestic loan in view of the harmful propaganda which aroused the citizens' doubts over the economic situation."

As-Sibai affirmed that the Syrian-Soviet agreement was "unconditional." The agreement, he added, will secure for us the necessary appropriations, machines, equipment, and studies besides dealing with part of our debts--he means the installments of the arms deals concluded by Syria.

Mazhar al-Shukri, deputy of the National (Al-Watani) Party, said that the agreement came "in accordance with the country's requirements and in line with its sovereignty and independence, and that Syria welcomes cooperation with the Soviet Union on unconditional bases."

The Syrian press continues to comment on the agreement. The Damascus daily AL-AYYAN said that the agreement was a natural consequence of the West's policy and that the principle of unconditional aid has been approved by the Arab states and advocated by the four Arab leaders at their historical meetings.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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SYRIA

Aug. 9, 1957

The paper went on to say that this agreement was in fact in the interest of both Syria and the Soviet Union, as Syria has secured aid from a great friend like the Soviet Union while the Soviet Union itself foiled the attempts to eliminate it from Syria and other free peoples in the Middle East. The paper said there is no doubt that the Western states were disturbed by the agreement. They are the ones to be held responsible for this, because it came as a result of their foolish imperialist policy which they have had and are still pursuing by supporting and arming Israel while withholding arms from the Arabs and persisting in suppressing the independence movements in Algeria, Yemen and other places.

ASH-SHAM says: "We are now face to face with the colonizer and foreigner. This is the only course before us. These men in regard to previous arms deals feared threats should we proceed in this new course so long as it is free of any restrictions."

AL-JUDHUR said that in signing the agreement with Russia, Syria did not deviate from the policy of positive neutrality and that the statement was a clear proof of the policy of nonalignment.

AN-NUR, organ of the outlawed Communist Party in Syria, said that socialist markets are a great support for small states and that this agreement has removed all imperialist restrictions.

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SYRIA

Aug. 12, 1957

TARAZI CLARIFIES SYRIA-USSR STATEMENT

Beirut, ANA, in Arabic Code to the Near East, Aug. 10, 1957, 0915 GMT--M

(Text)

Demascus--Clarifying the Syrian-Soviet joint statement which was issued last Tuesday, Dr. Salah at-Tarazi, secretary general of the Syrian Foreign Ministry, said that the statement does not directly approve specific agreements but opens the door to such agreements which, no doubt, will be subject to studies and discussions between experts of the two sides and the assemblies which represent the people in ratifying various legal steps in this respect."

Dr. at-Tarazi said that the objectives of the joint statement "do not deviate from the Bandung Conference's resolutions nor from the positive neutrality upon which Syria's present policy is based." He added: "The imperialist enemies of Syria do not want Syria to break their economic blockade. They also oppose any measure to strengthen Syria, because they want it to remain weak and incapable of repelling aggression."

In a statement broadcast last night from the government controlled Syrian broadcasting station, Ghaleb al-Kayyali, director of the broadcasting station, said that Syria has moved from its passive attitude to that of initiative in the international political field now that it has crushed a series of international plots concocted against it." He said that the enemies of Syria will eventually find themselves on the defensive, a thing they will not like very much.

Comparing Syria's attitude with that of other Arab states, Al-Kayyali said: "As for the Arab states now siding with the Baghdad Pact and the Eisenhower doctrine, they have lost every pretext to justify this attitude, and the governments of these states are in constant fear."

Al-Kayyali added: "The Soviet Union helps us because its interest coincide with ours. Arab unity is advantageous to it for it halts imperialist influence in the Middle East. The objectives of Western policy and world Zionism are, however, economic interests, aggressive strategic interests, and the protection of Israel. Al-Kayyali further said that "the Soviet Union does not offer such aid as charity or for the sake of blue eyes. Nevertheless, it helps us, supports our policy, creates various means to safeguard our security, because it believes that this is in its own interest."

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SYRIA
Aug. 12, 1957

The daily AL-HADARAH today urged the holding of an extraordinary session of the Chamber of Deputies "since this session has become a necessity in order to block any attempt aiming at weakening the government's stand toward the successful negotiations held in Moscow."

No Assembly Session

Beirut, ANA, in Arabic Code to the Near East, Aug. 12, 1957, 1010 GMT--M

(Excerpt)

Damascus--Salih Aqil, Syrian Minister for Propaganda and Information Affairs, has declared that the plan for the Syrian Chamber of Deputies to hold an extraordinary session and debate the recent Syrian-Soviet agreement, which was concluded in Moscow during the visit of the Syrian delegation under the chairmanship of Khalid al-Azm, has been abandoned.

Al-Azm Evades Questions

London, REUTERS, Radioteletype in English to North America, Aug. 10, 1957, 1542 GMT--E

(Text)

Geneva--Khalid al-Azm, Syrian Defense Minister arrived here today in a special Czechoslovak plane from Prague on his way back to Damascus after a visit to the Soviet Union. The Defense Minister evaded questions from correspondents about whether he had arranged to buy arms from the Soviet Union or Czechoslovakia.

"In the past, whatever we have said about buying or not buying arms has been taken as an excuse to deliver arms to Israel. This time we are adopting another policy of not saying anything about whether or not we have purchased arms," he said.

The Syrian party was flying on to Damascus later today in a regular airliner.

(Editor's Note: Beirut, ANA, in Arabic Code to the Near East, Aug. 11, 1957, 0900 GMT reported from Damascus that official circles expect all Syrian delegates will have returned home by Aug. 14, with some expected in Damascus Aug. 12)

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SOVIET CULTURAL AGREEMENT--Dr. Salah at-Tarazi, secretary general of the Syrian Foreign Ministry, received the Soviet ambassador to Damascus Aug. 10 in connection with the implementation of the cultural agreement which was concluded between Syria and the Soviet Union last year. (Beirut, ANA, Aug. 10, 1957, 1640 GMT--M)

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MIDDLE EAST REVIEW
Aug. 12, 1957

Soviet penetration:

There has been a decline in Middle East comment on the talks between Syrian and Soviet and Czech leaders. Damascus radio carries the statement issued at the conclusion of the Syrian delegation's Prague visit which says Czechoslovakia will send economic and technical experts to Syria. There is no mention of Syria's sending anything to the Czechs.

Discussing the Soviet decision to aid Syria, an Amman radio commentary says the Soviet aim "is to turn Syria into a Russian political and military base" and that "nobody doubts the fact that Syria has accepted the Russian terms in advance." Another opinion on why the USSR is aiding Syria comes from Syrian radio chief Al-Kayyali, who says, according to an AUE NEWS AGENCY report, that "the USSR does not offer such aid as charity or for the sake of our blue eyes." It offers aid "because it believes that it is in its own interest."

The Syrian-Soviet statement does not approve "specific agreements," AIA reports the secretary general of the Syrian Foreign Ministry as saying, "but opens the door to such agreements." Cairo radio quotes the report of the Syrian paper AR-RAI AL-AWA that Syria has already signed an agreement with the USSR to purchase 200,000 tons of Syrian wheat. In a statement over Damascus radio upon his return from Prague and Moscow, the Syrian army chief of staff calls listeners "the Soviets work only for friendship" and thus wish to support legitimate Arab quisatis by "extending additional aid to help Syria overcome hardships resulting from its stand against imperialist plots."

Hopes of the arrival of Soviet arms in Yemen elicits comment only from the Israeli press as quoted in the press review. In general Israeli papers look on the arrival of the arms in Yemen as something that concerns imperialism much more than Israel, in particular the Western powers and Saudi Arabia.

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MIDDLE EAST REVIEW
Aug. 12, 1957

A Moscow broadcast in Arabic quotes a Cairo commentator as saying that the British aggression in Oman, following the aggression in Egypt, so increases tension that it could lead to the "launching of an atomic war." A VINITIMA commentary in Greek and Arabic quotes a "British army representative" as saying that "the real war has not started" and says that this means the attack on Oman will be intensified. A Nekrasov article from RAVK, broadcast on the home service, says the Americans are urging that the Omani fighting be concluded quickly in order to avoid "discrediting the Eisenhower doctrine."

Other comment on the Middle East is largely concerned with the recognition of the Tunisian Republic. TASS carries the congratulatory message from Voroshilov to Bourguiba, and an Arabic commentator, contrasting Soviet and Western policies toward the Arab world, says "it is no accident" that the Soviet Union was the first country to recognize Tunisia. Another Arabic commentary, referring to reports that France has decided to resume its aid to Tunisia, says this is only part of the policy of trying to regain control of the country. The commentator adds that the United States is ready to help France both "politically and militarily."

The Prague home service and CTK continue to publicize the visit of the Syrian Defense Minister and his party. A communique on the talks, released by CTK, says views were exchanged on questions of interest to the two countries and that Czechoslovakia will send economic experts to Syria and train Syrian workers for industrial plants Czechoslovakia is building in Syria. In a farewell speech over the Prague home service, Syrian Defense Minister al-Azm thanked the Czechs for the assistance given the Arabs in achieving a "victory of justice over foreign imperialists."

All East European transmitters to give wide attention to the Oman situation, describing it as a battle of Arab nationalism against the imperialists and as an Anglo-American fight for power in the Middle East.

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S Y R I A

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AD-DIN PRAISES RECEPTION IN MOSCOW

Damascus, in Arabic to Syria and the Near East, Aug. 11, 1957, 1615 GMT--M

(Statement by Maj. Gen. Tuwfiq Nigm ad-Din, chief of the general staff of the Syrian army)

(Text)

The critical period of tension prevailing in the world for a long time has affected the Middle East from the date of creation of Israel when imperialist pressure and plots increased against the Arabs. This culminated in the great danger to which Egypt and Arabism were exposed during the Suez events, as a result of which the true nature of imperialism was exposed. At the same time appeared the decisive will of the freedom-loving states to stop the aggression and condemn war and force as a means of settling differences between nations.

Foremost among these friendly freedom-loving states was the Soviet Union when it took a decisive step by stopping further aggression and warning the aggressors beforehand that they would bear the consequences of their crimes against peace, in addition to other stands which the Soviet Union maintained in the United Nations toward Arab questions. After all this, the natural outcome was that we had direct contact with the responsible authorities in the Soviet Union and conveyed to them the gratitude of the Arab people in general and the Syrian people in particular.

Furthermore, this unbiased attitude on the part of the Soviet authorities encouraged us to speak to them frankly about the hardships experienced by our country, hardships caused by imperialism and Zionism in order to prevent its development and improvement of its economic situation, as well as to prevent it from attaining economic and political freedom and to weaken its defense potentialities.

The first thing we made clear to the Soviet authorities was that Syria, people and government, attaches deep faith to positive neutrality and considers this policy as a basis of its relations with all states in the world. That is why Syria has rejected with obstinacy and determination all the conditional aid offered to her; as it also refused to join any pact or defense organization in whatever form it may be, such as the Baghdad Pact, the Eisenhower Doctrine, and others.

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This is in pursuance of the policy which Syria has reached following the long struggle of its people and after fully liberating itself from foreign interference. Thus, when we welcome any aid for our people we are doing so on the basis of our belief of nonalignment and non-restriction of our political and economic freedom, and also on the basis of not endangering our sovereignty and nationalism.

Upon arriving in the Soviet Union we saw indeed the genuine desire of the Soviets to support our legitimate Arab positions and to extend unconditional aid to meet all economic hardships which Syria is facing as a result of its stand against imperialist plots. The Soviets want only our friendship and the friendship of all the freedom-loving and self-liberating peoples of the world.

What we appreciated throughout our tour was that all the Soviet people support our position and welcome our friendship. We felt the indescribable love, friendship, and full respect which the Soviet people harbor for us in our struggle for our freedom. We also felt in all our official and nonofficial contacts that the Soviet Union has no expansionist aims, and that the desire of the Soviet people is to exploit the resources of their country and to raise their standard of living. We did not find anyone wishing to interfere in the internal affairs of our country; we found only support for our Arab position and our struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

The Soviet people, who suffered the bitter catastrophes of World War II, are anxious to strengthen the pillars of peace in the world and to do their level best to avoid a war which will affect their prosperity. There is no doubt that the true desire for peace and noninterference in the affairs of others are the things which encourage friendship with the Soviet Union.

We in Syria and in the self-liberated Arab countries should not let threats and such tactics as political and economic pressure force us to deviate from our national objectives. And we should give our friendship only to those who befriend us. We should not be affected by the biased propaganda launched by imperialism and its supporters about the intentions of the Soviet Union in an attempt to keep us under its domination, isolate us from the world, and threaten our people with hunger and death.

We have already tasted the sweetness of sovereignty and freedom. We should not permit imperialism and Zionism to dominate us again through their plans and pacts, no matter how concealed these are and no matter what means imperialism uses in advancing them.

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On this occasion we should like to refer to the welcome, hospitality, and true love we received during our visit to Czechoslovakia. We were also pleased to find in the Soviet Union sincere friends who understand our true problems, support our struggle, and offer us unconditional aid so that we will be able to overcome all our political and economic hardships.

The most important thing we came across was the good reputation of the struggle of the Syrian people against imperialism. This reputation has reached such an extent that the peoples in the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia now look upon the Syrian people as legendary heroes fighting for the sake of freedom and world peace. We have returned from this visit confident that when we are attacked there will be our friends who will defend us for the sake of peace and in support of the peoples' right to freedom and national sovereignty.

(Editor's Note: Damascus Home Service at 1115 GMT on Aug. 11, 1957, reported that General Tawfiq Nizam ad-Din arrived in Damascus by air, "accompanied by some members of the delegation.")

Wheat Agreement

Cairo, Egyptian Home Service, Aug. 11, 1957, 1400 GMT--M

(Excerpt)

Meanwhile, the Syrian paper AR-RAI AL-AAM said that the Syrian and Soviet sides have signed an agreement under which the Soviet Union pledges to purchase 200,000 tons of Syrian wheat from this year's harvest, provided that the payment of half the price is in hard currency and the other half in machinery and tools which Syria might need.

Report from Prague

Damascus, in Arabic to Syria and the Near East, Aug. 11, 1957, 0415 GMT--M

(Text)

The following statement has been issued on the visit to Czechoslovakia of the Syrian delegation under the chairmanship of Khalid al-Azm:

"In response to the invitation of the Czechoslovak Government, a Syrian Government delegation under the chairmanship of Khalid al-Azm, Minister of State and Acting Defense Minister, visited Czechoslovakia Aug. 7-8, 1957. Among the members of the Syrian Government delegation were Fakhir al-Kayyali, Minister of Public Works and Communications; Maj. Gen. Tawfiq Nizam ad-Din, Syrian army chief of staff; and Adnan Azhari, Syrian Minister to Prague. The delegation was received by Czechoslovak President Zapotocky, Prime Minister Viliam Siroky, Foreign Trade Minister Richard Dvorek, and Acting Defense Minister General Vaclav Kratochvil.

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"During their stay in Czechoslovakia, the members of the Syrian delegation visited a number of towns, and economic, cultural, and social organizations. During the discussions, which took place in an atmosphere of friendliness and cordiality, views were exchanged about matters of importance to the Czechoslovak and the Syrian republics. The discussions also dealt with matters connected with the development of the existing friendly relations. The expansion of economic relations were discussed on the basis of full equality and mutual benefits. The strengthening and expanding of economic relations was also related to the speeding up of the development of the Syrian national economy."

"Czechoslovakia will send to Syria, under the provisions on scientific and technical aid, missions of technical experts in economic fields. Czechoslovakia will undertake to train Syrian experts in the administration of industrial establishments which Czechoslovakia will build for Syria."

"The visit of the Syrian delegation is important in strengthening the friendly relations between the Czechoslovak and Syrian republics and at the same time furthers the consolidation of world peace."

CLOSER CHECK PLACED ON OFFICIALS' MOVES

Damascus, in Arabic to Syria and the Near East, Aug. 11, 1957, 1146 GMT-1.

(Text)

The office of the Premier has issued the following communique: "In the interest of the state requires that every official and employee travel within Syrian territory, and that he should not leave it unless by permission of the minister concerned, officials and employees are not to leave Syria without obtaining prior permission from the Minister. Violation of this regulation will call for disciplinary action to be taken. All interconnected security posts on borders to see that officials and employees take necessary permission before they cross the borders. Damascus, Aug. 1, 1957."

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WASHINGTON AMBASSADOR--Foreign Minister al-Biter on Aug. 11 received Ferid Zayn ed-Din, Syrian ambassador to Washington, and discussed with him Arab questions which will be submitted to the United Nations in its forthcoming session. He then received Nader Mardam, Syrian minister in London, and discussed with him relations between Syria and Iraq and Syria's attitude toward certain Arab questions and its desire to improve its relations with the Arab states. (Cairo, Aug. 11, 1957, 2000 GMT-4)

Aug. 13, 1957

WEST INSINCERELY CRITICIZES MOSCOW TALK

Beirut, ANA, in Arabic Code to the Near East, Aug. 12, 1957, 1636 GMT--M

(Text)

Damascus--An official Syrian source today described the discussions conducted by the Syrian delegation headed by Khalid al-Azm, the Syrian Minister of State and Deputy Defense Minister, in Moscow and Prague as constituting a natural part of a policy of positive neutrality and nonalignment emanating from the interests of Syria and the Arab countries which Syria is practicing with much determination and scrutiny in order to realize economic prosperity and insure its integrity and sovereignty.

The source said that the objective of the uproar aroused by certain Western countries about the Syrian delegation's mission in the Soviet Union is to create a new excuse in order to exert pressure on Syria with the hope of making it amend or change the inclination of its foreign policy. The source added that this uproar indicates premeditated bad will since /by Afghanistan, India, Indonesia, Burma, and other Asian countries have preceded us in concluding agreements similar to the Syrian economic agreement without raising any uproar like the one which was aroused about Syria.

The source went on to say that public opinion will be acquainted with the details of the results reached by the Syrian delegation when the draft agreements concluded by it during its visit to Russia and Czechoslovakia are referred to the Chamber of Deputies for approval in accordance with the constitutional procedures. The source added that the Soviet Union has responded to Syria's policy aiming at obtaining financial and technical aid to realize its economic development provided that this aid is devoid of any condition which would breach its independence and sovereignty.

The Soviet Union, he said, has expressed its readiness to offer the required aid without any condition or obligation being attached. This has been an exception among promises for aid given in conjunction with conditions conflicting with our sovereignty and our eagerness to exercise this sovereignty in an atmosphere of complete independence. The source has asserted once more Syria's eagerness to carry on with the policy of nonalignment and treating all countries on an equal footing--the policy adopted by the Bandung Conference.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER LEAVES FOR MOSCOW

Beirut, ANA, in Arabic Code to the Near East, Aug. 12, 1957, 0912 GMT--M

(Summary)

Damascus--At midnight last night, a Syrian agricultural delegation under the chairmanship of Hamid al-Khuja, Syrian Minister of Agriculture, left Damascus for Moscow in response to the invitation of the Soviet Minister of Agriculture to attend the agricultural exhibition there.

(Editor's Note: Beirut, ANA, in Arabic Code to the Near East, Aug. 11, 1957, 1607 GMT reported that Al-Khuja told reporters he will take the opportunity to discuss purchases of Syrian cotton with representatives of the USSR, Poland, East Germany, and Czechoslovakia. He added that he will spend 10 days in Moscow and three days in the other three countries.)

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

He returned from his successful trip last night. He was
met at the airport by General Sotoudeh, a large man,
and some officials who had been distorted mainly, usually
but not always, distorted intentionally.

Our informant met General Sotoudeh this morning in Damascus.
General Sotoudeh's trip to the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia
was made under his own name, and was Col. Lepage, et al.
He stated that in this connection to correspondents of various
newspaper agencies in Italy.

He wanted to issue an article, a comprehensive statement about his
trip, so I informed him that the trip was successful and that
he had seen new people and other things which he found useful for Syria.
I also told him that the joint statement issued
in Moscow and in Prague contained all the negotiations conducted and the
terms agreed upon by both sides. He affirmed that the outcome of
talks will help Syria develop its economy and that the Soviet Union
assists the independence of Syria and the Arab states and their desire
to preserve their full sovereignty. The Soviet Union refrains from
interfering in the affairs of these countries wishing them stable
and expressing its readiness to conduct an independent policy.

He further then compared the offers made by the International Bank
to facilitate Syrian economy and the Soviet offers. He pointed out
that the International bank negotiated with Syria in a manner as if to
make it difficult for Syria. The Soviet Union chose the right
method to execute her projects. It allows her to supervise
the economy using Syria as a pretext for intervening into her
internal affairs.

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When the correspondent asked Khalid al-Azm about his meeting with Col. Ibrahim al-Husayni, he said that the journalists in Rome surrounded him and asked his opinion about the plot exposed by the Syrian authorities. He told them that his information on the subject was derived from their own sources and that he did not hear anything particular about the matter. He refused to express his opinion on the question of the complicity of Colonel al-Husayni in the conspiracy. He stated that he had met him in Rome but knew nothing about the nature of the connection of Al-Husayni in the matter.

Al-Azm affirmed that reports on Syria are distorted for specific aims. He warned against serious attention being paid to everything that is published about Syria's policy, in particular, and about the political conditions in the Middle East, in general.

Press Comment

Cairo, Egyptian Home Service, Aug. 14, 1957, 1430 GMT--M

(From the world press review)

(Summary)

The Syrian newspaper BARADA has reviewed western relations with the Arabs on the occasion of the conclusion of the latest Syrian-Soviet agreement. Under the headline "A New Era," the paper says: "For over 40 years the Arabs cooperated with the Western powers. During these years we joined the first world war on the side of Britain and France in order to deliver ourselves from the Turkish yoke, to attain recognition of our independence, and to achieve unity for the sake of which our martyrs died. But our reward from these two powers was that they colonialized our countries, divided them into small states, looted our wealth, humiliated our good men, and let our evil men rule us. They also made Palestine, the most sacred part of our countries, a national home for the criminals of the world.

In the second world war, we stood by the side of the allies and used all our resources and wealth to make our enemies victorious. Our reward from them was the usurping of Palestine and the establishment of an intruder state. They provided this state with all means of life and strength to enable it to annihilate us, loot our homelands, and expand in these homelands at our expense. Our reward from them was to shatter our unity, colonize our countries, loot our wealth and oil, and set their armies and the armies of the gangster state upon us.

"They were not satisfied with this. They picked the bad people from among us, and made them rulers in some of our countries, so that they might sign on behalf of our peoples, pacts and agreements which would allow our countries to be occupied and our peoples become slaves. This is what we got for cooperating 40 years with the West, until God sent us President Jamal Abd an-Nasir and his colleagues, the commanders of the revolution in Egypt."

The Arabs changed the tactics of this shameful and humiliating cooperation and adopted the policy of neutrality. They broke the seige and extended their hand to the honorable rulers in the world, cooperating and dealing with them to limit the oppression of imperialism which was trying to dominate the Arabs. Thus they led the way for us, we in Syria. We also looked toward these honorable rulers and found in them honest friends, who ask nothing from us but to keep away from blocs and pacts which would make us their enemies. This is the least that a friend can ask of a friend.

"The agreement which was signed in Moscow shall be the opening of a new era between the Soviet Union and all the Arabs. Because the strengthening and development of Syria economically and industrially will make it able to resist and destroy the plots and intrigues which imperialism engineered against it. Thus the hour when the Arabs will get rid of imperialism draws near. Imperialism will then be expelled from its last positions, which began to shake as a result of Arab consciousness, and Arab nationalism will then attain what it wants and the Arabs will occupy a high position among the nations."

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S Y R I A

Aug. 16, 1957

AL-ADM REPORTS ON MOSCOW AGREEMENTS

Damascus, in Arabic to Syria and the Near East, Aug. 16, 1957, 0500 GMT.

(Statement by Minister of State and Acting Defense Minister Khalid al-Azm)

(Text)

Dear compatriots. The Syrian Government delegated us to convey to the Soviet Union both government and people greetings from the Syrian government and people for the support and backing the Soviet Union has given to our problems, support not only on the political side, whether in the United Nations or other world political quarters, but also on the military side when it enabled us to purchase arms to increase the strength of our beloved army. Besides these essentials, there was also the necessity of supporting our economy and our trade from all aspects. Therefore, the government sent us to convey to the Soviet Union, besides this greeting, a true picture of our situation in this part of the Arab East.

We were met with hospitality and welcome in these lands, by those in office, by the people, and particularly by workers whose factories we visited. This hospitality was not accorded us just because we were official representatives of the Syrian Government. It went beyond us to embrace all members of the Syrian delegation to the Moscow festival. Whenever we passed through the streets, we saw the enormous crowds which surrounded members of the Syrian delegation to the festival, expressing welcome, hospitality and attachment. This made us realize that the name of Syria is very popular there and that the Syrians enjoy a large measure of love and respect.

As I said before, our talks dealt with our economic affairs. Since Syria achieved sovereignty in 1943 successive governments have studied with the advice of domestic and foreign experts the vital schemes required for us to bolster our political independence. There were numerous studies, some of which were completed, accomplished, and put into special files, and others which were not completed and not even begun?). We have an opinion regarding the total requirements for these projects which would bolster our economy and bring it to the level we desire.

Among the prominent projects is that for the railways and roads and air and sea transport. All of us know that the railways existing in Syria are a legacy from the concessions obtained by foreign companies. Some of these railways have a broader gauge than others. Links among the Arab states were nonexistent. The railway network here was small.

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Therefore, we had to study railway affairs and to make the railways serve the service we require by linking the agricultural land which produces our harvests with the seaport which we established in the town of Latakia.

The Ministry of Public Works made the studies for these projects, and a world company submitted a detailed study in a number of volumes covering our needs in this field, such as the laying of a new railway line between Latakia and Al-Qamishli and then linking it with the Baghdad line. The cost of this long line was estimated at 550 million Syrian pounds. There is also the project for linking Damascus with Homs via An-Nabk by railway which would be joined to the general railway network.

Besides the railway, there are several projects for connecting a number of roads, thus making them suitable for truck transportation, particularly from Al-Jazirah to the sea. We are also in need of sea transportation to insure the delivery of goods to foreign ports or to import the goods which we require from abroad. Besides this there is air transportation of which we have a small nucleus between Syria, Egypt, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and we want to expand it to cover Europe also. We also have another project for enlarging Latakia port. Before its expansion is accomplished, scheduled for autumn, its administrators realize that it is too small to cope with the number of cargo ships which carry the imports and exports. It is also contemplated to expand the port further and to lengthen the quays where the ships anchor.

There are also irrigation and well projects. You know that our country is originally agricultural and that it requires many irrigation projects to increase the area under cultivation and consequently increase our agricultural crops. The irrigation projects are summed up in building new dams on the large rivers in Syria, and at the same time we shall be able to generate electricity and use electric power in factories for lighting and other purposes.

The water stored behind these dams in the winter can be distributed in the summer. Thus we shall be able to double the area of our agricultural land. These projects cost enormous sums. One of the prominent projects is (word indistinct) (Al-Fasha) which according to expert estimates generates more than (90,000?) kilowatts, in other words, more than 150,000 horsepower.

There are also a number pf projects to construct assembly plants for tractors, other agricultural machines, and for cars. We use many cars and agricultural machines. All these machines are imported from abroad against payment. They may break down and they remain unproductive. We are also contemplating the establishment of factories to make spare parts for these tractors and cars locally, so they will be serviceable and give good use in agriculture.

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Provides there are other factories which we have yet not been able to establish. We are also contemplating their establishment unless individual capital (is able?) to undertake it.

Former governments and the present government conducted several studies and determined to obtain the money required for the implementation of these projects. The World Bank was difficult. Talks had been conducted between the Syrian delegation and the World Bank in 1954-55 to obtain the loans required, but regrettably we were unable to accept the terms of the contracts because they would have imposed on us intolerable and (impractical!) terms, such as submitting to the bank the names of the commercial establishments and companies we want to contract, obtaining the bank's approval before concluding contracts with them, and informing it of the method of exploiting the land and its distribution among the people, all securing the approval of a special committee to be set up by the bank.

These arbitrary terms were incompatible with the principle of independence and freedom to which we adhere. Consequently, the representatives delegated by the government to discuss these subjects were unable to recommend that the government accept these terms. Therefore these projects remained pending. Some of them were financed by the government from its own revenue such as Al-Ghab project, and others remained at the paper work and file stage because the government was unable to find the money for their implementation.

As you know, unless political independence is coupled with economic independence, one cannot feel that this independence is secure. A strong national economy is the real support of political independence. Therefore, we decided to approach the Soviet Union with these projects and discussed them in Moscow. Naturally, our discussion was not detailed because there were just two of us, my colleague the Minister of Public Works and myself, and we had no technicians with us. We only wished to reach a preliminary agreement with the government of the Soviet Union. If we reached an agreement on these subjects in principle, talks between the experts of both sides could begin to conclude these agreements in detail.

We were able to reach agreement as we mentioned in the joint statement which was announced in Moscow when we were there and with which you became acquainted here. Accordingly we agreed with the government of the Soviet Union to undertake these projects jointly, after the experts have submitted to both sides the details of the projects. The expense of these projects will be aid by the Syrian Government in long-term installments. This will cover the cost of the goods, machines, and spare parts we shall import from the Soviet Union and the wages of the workers and technical experts which we shall require from it. As for the wages of local workers, the salaries of the local employees, the cost of the raw materials which will be used in these projects, such as sand, gravel, stone, cement, and so forth--they shall be supplied by the government.

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With us too, the aforementioned projects will expand the agricultural area and will insure the improvement of conditions for the farmers to a great extent by securing irrigation for new lands and the lands which are being exploited at present despite the water shortage. The farmer and villager all know that the country is now suffering a water shortage. The water which is being exploited is not enough for the land and cultivation. In the winter we have much water which is not utilized in the summer and is wasted away to the sea. If we construct dams and save the water for the summer, we shall be able to irrigate the land with an abundant supply of water and we shall be able to increase our production and exportation.

In our harvest we are not satisfied with much expensive transportation. Al-Jazira people in particular know how much it costs to transport their wheat and barley to Latakia harbor, because the means of communications and the condition of the roads do not permit reduced transportation costs. When the railway is established and road networks are constructed in a manner suitable to cope with traffic and heavy trucks, transportation expenses will be reduced and consequently the cost of Syrian crops will be cut, and we shall be able to compete more fully abroad, or at least we can meet the competition with lower prices.

These preliminary agreements also include the construction of many factories, which will be of great benefit to the workers by increasing the jobs which they can do at suitable wages, thus giving them the means to insure their personal and family requirements.

With regard to our agricultural crops (which have suffered a slump this year), we have reached agreement with the Soviet Union and the government of Czechoslovakia that they will purchase our wheat, barley, cotton, and other products which we wish to export. They are ready to purchase all the quantities we offer because they are only a small part of what (they propose to) purchase. In the near future a Syrian Government delegation for detailed talks with the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia will depart to conclude the detail of agreement on shipping grain to those countries and insuring their disposal at good prices. Thereby, we will have cast ourselves from the economic blockade which certain countries seek to impose upon us.

I conclude my statement by thanking the Soviet Union and the government of Czechoslovakia for the deep understanding they expressed toward our problems and for their effective support of our political and economic policies. While I extend this warm thanks, I must pay tribute to the support given by the Syrian people to the Syrian delegation during its stay in Soviet Union, as well as during Syrian public opinion which received these reforms eagerly and supported the delegation wholeheartedly.

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I conclude my statement noting that the results of our economic talks will lead to the flourishing sought by all of us, so much so that our country during the coming years will be the theater for increased production, for satisfactory conditions for the (word indistinct) and to the farmer and of benefit to all. We will have thus bolstered our international standing and our place in the world.

to us and I mention that our disagreements will be resolved on the principle already agreed upon and will not be subject to political or economic strings. The Soviet Union as you know will not interfere in our affairs nor does it seek to interfere in our political system. It wants Syria to have a strong economy to support its political independence.

The Russians have no ambitions in our country. Their only desire is to live in peace and that we should not be involved in any conflict. They do not want to move fast because they believe that if we move too fast we will be unable to control our situation. They do not want to move too slow because they believe that if we move too slow we will be unable to control our situation. They do not want to move too fast because they believe that if we move too fast we will be unable to control our situation. They do not want to move too slow because they believe that if we move too slow we will be unable to control our situation.

Also, you may know, the Soviet regime does not dominate. Russia has no colonies, and therefore, in order to please the peoples, they must give up some of their rights of government to them. This is true of all the governments and the people, and there are no conflicts concerning which the Soviet Union seeks to support or (two words) to help. They do not want to help because they bolster our freedom with the principles which they advocate for the whole world, not only for Syria.

The Soviet Union has given us political support and supplies, and with which we were able to obtain a place after that the Soviet Union, as you know, did a good job. You will remember that during those dark nights of saved events, how we were able to depend on the Soviet Union for such subjects; how this important country gave us freedom, and received recognition from the United Nations, and delivered the Army from the hands of the imperialists, which imperialists wanted to inflict on them. The Soviet Union, in my belief, kills in the same as this line, based on the international law and justice, which is the only way in Europe, and the American states to keep up with the countries' leading them in their principles; namely, to protect freedom in the world, to protect the independence of countries regardless of where they are located, and self-determination for the individuals.

Now, in the war, we are determined to defend our independence, to defend freedom, which means no retreat or despair, and that is why we are willing to sacrifice every drop of our blood in defense of our independence even if we are left alone. I am certain that if we stand on our principles we shall not be alone.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

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SYRIA

Aug. 19, 1957

Assembly Action Not Needed

Beirut, A.A., in Arabic Code to the Near East, Aug. 19, 1957,
2112 GMT--M

(Text) Damascus--Ihsan al-Jibiri, chairman of the political committee of the Parliamentary National Front from which the present government emerged, said that Khalid al-Azm, Acting Defense Minister, in his capacity as chairman of the Syrian delegation to the discussions which recently took place in Moscow and Prague, submitted to the committee at a meeting this afternoon the results of the Moscow discussions. He said that after hearing these results the committee decided to thank the government for the agreements which the Syrian delegation had concluded and in which the security of the state and its interests were unconditionally taken into consideration.

Al-Jabiri added that Al-Azm told the committee in his capacity as Acting Defense Minister that the government has taken firm and reassuring measures for the people with regard to recent developments in Syria. Al-Jabiri added also that there is no need for the government to submit the agreements reached by the Syrian delegation during its visit to Moscow to the Chamber of Deputies for approval since they offer all necessary facilities to promote agriculture and the economy in Syria. He described these agreements as simply aid which the Syrian Government requires from the USSR to implement its projects.

In his capacity as chairman of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee, Al-Jabiri said that he today received from the Syrian Government an invitation addressed to the committee to visit the Soviet Union. The invitation left it for him to decide on the date if he accepts.

(Editor's Note: Paris, AFP, Radioteletype in English to the Americas, Aug. 18, 1957, 2112 GMT reported that Al-Azm "announced today" that Al-Jabiri would "soon go to Moscow" and, according to Al-Azm, would "tell Soviet authorities about Syrian needs for experts of various types." The item added that "final details concerning this problem will be embodied in agreements to be concluded in Moscow or Damascus," according to Al-Azm.)

No Secret Protocols

Beirut, A.A., in Arabic Code to the Near East, Aug. 18, 1957, 1800 GMT--M

(Text) (Editor's Note: Under a Damascus dateline, this item opened by noting that Al-Azm reported on Aug. 18 to the Foreign Affairs Committee on his Moscow trip and that Al-Bitar gave the committee information available on the plot to carry out a coup d'etat.)

Yesterday Khalid al-Azm addressed the political committee of the National Parliamentary Bloc about his discussions in Moscow. He also discussed the same subject at a cabinet meeting yesterday evening.

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SYRIA
Aug. 19, 1957

Following the meeting of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee, Abd al-Wathab Hawmad, a leading member of the People's (Ash-Shab) Party, which is in the opposition, and a member of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee, today answered a question from a journalist about the attitude of the opposition in regard to the discussions conducted by Khalid al-Azm in Moscow, saying:

"The information supplied by Khalid al-Azm and Salah ad-Din al-Bitar has made it clear to us that the matter is not one of conditional Soviet aid but rather one of Soviet financing of productive projects needed by Syria, on condition that Syria pays back such money within a fixed period and pays interest thereon at a rate of 2½ percent. Thus it is purely a commercial matter, and there are no restrictions or conditions involved."

Hawmad added that he asked Al-Azm and Al-Bitar as to whether there are any secret protocols or agreements accompanying these economic agreements, and that they categorically denied that there is anything which was not mentioned to the committee.

Following the meeting, Ihsan al-Jabiri, chairman of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee, stated that Al-Azm assured the committee that the financing of the Syrian projects will not take place by means of loans but on the basis of lending Syria the services of experts who will carry out technical work and be paid wages, and that Syria will pay back the cost of the necessary equipment by long-term installments with an interest of 2½ percent.

(Editor's Note: The item concluded by noting that Al-Bitar spoke of the nature of the propaganda certain quarters are conducting about the recently revealed plot. Al-Jabiri also said the committee heard Al-Bitar's contention that the time is "now opportune and appropriate to implement" a federation between Egypt and Syria. AGENCIE FRANCE-PRESSE reported at 2120 GMT on Aug. 18 that Al-Jabiri said a special committee was formed to study this federation move.)

Aug. 19, 1957

AL-AZM: SYRIA NOT ACCEPTING COMMUNISM

Beirut, AWA, in Arabic Code to the Near East, Aug. 6, 1957, 1015 GMT--M

(Text) Damascus--Syrian Minister of State Khalid al-Azm told reporters today that the first thing he said to responsible Soviet officials in Moscow was: "We, the Syrians, do not accept your communist creed, and we are not establishing our relations with you on the basis of communism. We are cooperating with you only on an honest international basis without having anything to do with ideologies and beliefs."

Al-Azm added that Soviet Premier Marshal Bulganin answered him saying that Russia does not impose communism on anybody and definitely does not interfere in Syria's internal affairs, and that its desire is to see Syria free and independent, free from the traces of imperialism and the domination of imperialists.

CABINET APPROVES MOSCOW DECISIONS

Beirut, AWA, in Arabic Code to the Near East, Aug. 18, 1957, 0945 GMT--M

(Text) Damascus--At a meeting held last night under the chairmanship of Premier Sabri al-Asali, the Syrian cabinet approved the agreements concluded by Khalid al-Azm, Minister of State and Acting Defense Minister, during his recent visit to Moscow and Prague. The cabinet decided to place the development board in Syria under the supervision of Khalid al-Azm and that the powers of the development board would include control of the construction projects on which implementation agreement was reached in the aforementioned agreements.

The cabinet also decided to add the following new members to the development board: Wajih as-Samman, director of the electricity establishment in Damascus; Abd al-Basit al-Khatib, director of Al-Ghab project; and Kamal Ghali, a prominent official of the Syrian customs directorate.

(Editor's Note: Two lines on background of development board omitted.)

The cabinet has asked the Ministry of National Economy to enter into talks with Russia and Czechoslovakia to bolster and expand trade between them and Syria.

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Approved For Release 2001/03/02 : CIA-RDP78-02771R000400150005-4

SYRIA SIGNED NO MOSCOW AGREEMENTS

Beirut, AIA, in Arabic Code to the Near East, Aug. 20, 1957, 1800 GMT--M

(Text) Damascus--Syrian Foreign Minister al-Bitar has stated that Syria did not sign any agreement with the Soviet Union. "All that has happened was that a joint communique was issued laying the principles which could be used as a basis for the growth of our economy and the development of our various conditions," he added. Al-Bitar made this statement during an interview he had yesterday with the correspondent of the American Universal Television Company which was released last night by the Syrian directorate general of propaganda and information.

Replying to a question about the causes that have led to the strengthening of relations between Syria and the Soviet Union, a development that has not taken place between Syria and many other countries, the Syrian Foreign Minister said: "There were no extraordinary factors that made our relations with the Soviet Union good and cordial. It is merely that the Soviet Union has fully understood the aims of the Arabs in their present historical era and has realized the legitimacy of these aims, and has thus based its relations with us on this realization. The Soviet Union has supported the Arab states in the international field on this basis."

Asked if Syria had rejected aid or a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development about a year ago, he said: "Syria rejected the aid of the International Bank because the conditions which the bank laid down prevented the free and independent development of our country economically." Al-Bitar added: "Political conditions were attached to these loans. Of these, one condition stipulated that we should cooperate with the United Nations Works and Relief Agency on the rehabilitation of the refugees. This means that Syria would have had to follow the policy of the United States for the Middle East which seeks to make Israel's domination of the Arab homeland a legitimate matter and to impose peace upon us."

Al-Bitar added: "All this has taken place at a time when the United States was providing Israel with one and a half billion dollars worth of aid and grants last year while it supplied the Arabs only a trifle."

Al-Bitar replied in the negative to a question about whether Syria's rejection of the Eisenhower plan was tantamount to rejection of all American aid. He said that Syria wanted to express its point of view to Richards, the envoy of President Eisenhower, and would have welcomed his visit, but it made the authorities concerned understand at the same time that Syria could not abandon its pure Arab nationalistic policy. Al-Bitar said that Richards refused to visit Syria. "The refusal to visit Syria is discriminatory not only against Syria but also against the United States was not justified on our policy, but that it was according to the policy of the United States. One of the ways to achieve this destruction, the United States believes, is the withholding of loans from Syria."

Asked his opinion about the extent of the success of the United Nations, Al-Bitar said: "Every time the policy of the United States and the West agrees with the policy of the Soviet Union then there is a success for the United Nations. I believe that the success of this organization stands on this basis."

Aug. 20, 1957

SOVIET AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR TWO SUBS.

Cairo, MENA, in Arabic Code to the Near East, Aug. 20, 1957, 0610 GMT--M

(Text) Cairo--Quoting its Alexandria correspondent, AL-JUMHURIYYAH reports that the agreement concluded between Syria and the Soviet Union provides for the purchase of two submarines for the Syrian Navy. Some of the Syrian officers graduated from the naval college in Alexandria have left for Poland to receive training in operating the two submarines.

Aug. 21, 1957

CZECH-SOVIET AGREEMENTS MUST CHANGE

Beirut, ANA, in Arabic Code to the Near East, Aug. 20, 1957, 1915 GMT--M

(Text) Damascus--The secretary general of the Syrian Ministry of Economy, Husni as-Suwwan, said today that the Syrian Ministry of Economy has decided to inform the Soviet and Czechoslovak embassies in Damascus of the Syrian Government's desire to enter into urgent discussions with them for the revision of the economic agreements concluded between Syria and the Soviet Union and Syria and Czechoslovakia in such a way as to make these two agreements comply with the projects which the Syrian Government intends to implement and which the Russian Government has promised to finance. As-Suwwan expressed his belief that this revision will take place by the end of September.

It is worth mentioning that the economic agreement between Syria and Czechoslovakia was last reviewed on May 3 during the visit to Prague of Khalil al-Kallas, Syrian Minister of Economy.

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DAMASCUS, SYRIA (AP) - A THREE-MAN DELEGATION FLEW TO MOSCOW TODAY TO IRON OUT DETAILS OF WHAT SYRIA CALLS A PRELIMINARY ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

THE FLIGHT OF THE SYRIAN DELEGATION SO SOON AFTER DISCLOSURE OF THE AGREEMENT ON AUG. 6 LED TO THE OBSERVATION BY WESTERNERS IN MOSCOW THAT THE KREMLIN HAD WORKED WITH UNPRECEDENTED SPEED IN WINDING UP TECHNICAL EXAMINATION OF THE COST AND SCOPE OF THE PROMISED AID. THE REPORT FROM MOSCOW SAID THE SYRIAN DELEGATION MAY MAKE THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT FINAL.)

THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT SAID THE AGREEMENT WOULD NOT BE FORMALIZED UNTIL IT IS APPROVED BY THE CABINET IN DAMASCUS.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DELEGATION'S MISSION, LED BY THE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL DIRECTOR, HASSAN JBARA, SAID IT WILL DISCUSS WITH THE KREMLIN PROPOSED PROJECTS IN SYRIA AND THE APPROXIMATE OVER-ALL COSTS.

AS DESCRIBED IN A JOINT SYRIA-SOVIET COMMUNIQUE THE AGREEMENT CALLS FOR RUSSIA TO PROVIDE TOOLS, EQUIPMENT, MACHINERY AND TECHNICIANS FOR SYRIAN PROJECTS. THESE PROJECTS INCLUDE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORT OF LATAKIA AND CONSTRUCTION OF DAMS AND RAILWAYS.

MEANWHILE, SALAH TARAZI, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, MET WITH THE TURKISH MINISTER IN SYRIA TO "EXCHANGE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SITUATION IN TURKEY."

ASKED IF THIS MEANT THE TWO WOULD DISCUSS THE VISIT TO TURKEY OF U.S. TROUBLE-SHOOTER LOY HENDERSON, TARAZI REPLIED, "MAYBE."

LT347 PED 8/27

9
MIDDLE EAST

LONDON (AP) - DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN LONDON ESTIMATED TODAY THE RUSSIANS HAVE 350 MILITARY ADVISERS IN SYRIA.

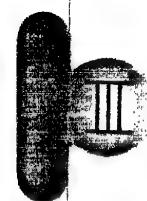
THE DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAID RUSSIA ALSO IS REPORTED TO HAVE SENT 83 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF ARMS TO THE ARAB NATION. THEY SAID THIS WAS IN ADDITION TO PREVIOUS SHIPMENTS WORTH 56 MILLION DOLLARS PRIOR TO LAST FALL'S INVASION OF SUEZ.

THE SOURCES SAID SYRIA'S STOCKPILE OF RUSSIAN ARMS NOW INCLUDES 200 T34 TANKS, 50 SELF-PROPELLED GUNS, 200 ARMORED TROOP CARRIERS, 120 122 M. M. FIELD GUNS, 60 ANTIAIRCRAFT GUNS, 70 MIG15 AND MIG17 FIGHTER PLANES AND AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF MOTOR TORPEDO BOATS.

THEY SAID MORE COMMUNIST ARMS, INCLUDING TWO SUBMARINES AND 120 MORE PLANES, ARE EXPECTED TO BE SENT TO SYRIA AS A RESULT OF THE VISIT OF SYRIAN DEFENSE MINISTER KHALED AL AZEM TO MOSCOW EARLIER THIS MONTH.

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SELECTED PRESS COMMENTS



Soviet Assist Reported In Syrian Arms Payment

6 Aug. 1957 *CS7* The Associated Press

Cairo Arab diplomatic sources reported Aug. 3 the Soviet Union has agreed to let Syria defer payment for arms bought from the Communist bloc in the past two years.

Diplomatic informants in possession of detailed information said the Soviets made this concession during talks in Moscow with Syrian Defense Minister Khaled al-Azem and the Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Tewfik Nizam el-Din.

The Soviets also are reported to have agreed to offer Syria technical and economic aid to amount to between 200 million and 300 million Syrian pounds (\$5 million to 100 million dollars).

While Syrian Government circles are said to regard the Soviet concessions as a victory, diplomatic sources here feel it only means increasing Syrian dependence on the Soviet Union. Since early 1954 Syria has been the most leftist of the Arab states, and the current Azem visit has tended to pull Syria further into the Soviet camp.

Although Egypt under President Nasser took the lead in purchasing arms from the Soviet Union in 1955, Syria appears to have passed Egypt in the leftward movement.

In recent speeches, Colonel

Nasser gave the Soviet Union only passing words of gratitude and emphasized a determination to remain neutral between East and West. He sharply attacked leftists inside Egypt and rejected their efforts to reduce private ownership. Colonel Nasser is continuing to wage steady war against Communists inside Egypt, and recently Egyptian Communists distributed pamphlets attacking Colonel Nasser.

In Syria, by contrast, the Communists have a strong ideological base in the trade unions and Army student movements. Syrian Foreign Minister Salah Bitar is a leftist Socialist whose party is one of the most powerful in Parliament.

While Colonel Nasser appears to be trying to find a way out of his economic troubles through the use of Suez Canal revenues and restoring economic relations with Britain and France, Syria apparently intends to rely increasingly on the Soviet Union as a way out economically.

Syria goes
Fly at the f
- on Delta's
Golden Crown DC-7's

St. Louis Post-Dispatch
AUG 6 1957

Russia Is Said To Defer Syria Arms Payments

Concession Would Further Increase Nation's Depend- ence on Moscow.

By WILTON WYNN

CAIRO, Aug. 6 (AP)

ARAB diplomatic sources reported yesterday the Soviet Union has agreed to let Syria defer payment for arms bought from the Communist bloc in the last two years.

Diplomatic informants said the Russians made this concession at talks in Moscow with Syrian Defense Minister Khaled el Azem and the Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Tewlik Nizam el Din.

The Russians also are reported to have agreed to offer Syria technical and economic aid to amount to between \$65,000,000 and \$100,000,000.

While Syrian government circles are said to regard the Soviet concessions as a victory, diplomatic sources here feel it only means increasing Syrian dependence on the Soviet Union. Since early 1954 Syria has been the most leftist of the Arab states and the current Azem visit has tended to pull Syria farther into the Soviet camp.

Although Egypt under President Nasser took the lead in purchasing arms from the Soviet Union in 1955, Syria appears to have passed Egypt in the leftward movement.

In recent speeches Nasser gave the Soviet Union only passing words of gratitude and emphasized a determination to remain neutral between East and West. He sharply attacked leftists inside Egypt and rejected their efforts to reduce private ownership. Nasser is continuing to wage steady war against Communists inside Egypt and recently Egyptian Communists distributed pamphlets attacking Nasser.

In Syria, by contrast, the Communists have a strong ideological base in the trades unions and army student movements. Syrian Foreign Minister Salah Bitar is a leftist Socialist whose party is one of the most powerful in Parliament.

While Nasser appears to be trying to find a way out of his economic troubles through the use of Suez canal revenues and restoring economic relations with Britain and France, Syria apparently intends to rely increasingly on the Soviet Union as a way out economically.

IENCE MONITOR, BOSTON, WEDNESDAY, 7 aug 57

U.S.S.R. and Syria Reach Accord on Aid

By Reuters

Moscow
The Soviet Union will give Syria economic and technical help, according to a joint Soviet-Syrian communique issued here Aug. 6.

The communique, issued after two weeks of talks between Soviet Government and Army representatives and a Syrian delegation, said the Soviet Union will also send an economic delegation to Syria.

It said the U.S.S.R. will cooperate with Syria in the construction of roads and railroads and in irrigation, hydroelectric power stations, and other industrial projects.

Cooperation will cover geological and other survey works, the communique said.

Josef J. Kuzmin, a Soviet Dep-

uty Premier, and Khaled al-Azem, Syrian Defense Minister, who led the Syrian delegation, exchanged speeches after the communique was signed.

Bulgaria Attends

Soviet Premier Nikolai A. Bulganin attended a Soviet reception following the signing ceremony, his third official appearance in the last 48 hours. With him was Defense Minister Marshal Georgi K. Zhukov.

The communique said talks between the government delegations took place in an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality.

"A sincere and wide exchange of opinions was made on questions interesting to both the Soviet Union and Syria in conformity with the striving of both countries toward consolidating peace and security in the Middle East."

"It was noted that the Soviet Government is looking with sincere sympathy upon the efforts of the Government of Syria which are directed to a further strengthening of the political and economical independence of the country and on a speedier overcoming of the consequences of the colonial rule," the communique said.

The communique noted that the Soviet Government "is prepared to cooperate with Syria in the construction of road and railways, irrigation, and the construction of hydroelectric power stations and other industrial projects.

No Political Strings

"This cooperation will also cover geological and other survey works.

"In order to achieve the aims of this agreement, a Soviet economic delegation will go to Syria," the communique said.

"The Soviet Government has agreed to give favorable consideration to the granting of credits to Syria for the payment of the survey projects, the supply of equipment and other expenses.

"The Soviet side stated that this economic and technical cooperation would be carried out without any political or other conditions on the basis of equality and mutual economic benefit and without any interference in the internal affairs of Syria, respecting fully the national sovereignty of the Syrian Republic.

"Both sides considered it essential to take measures leading to a development of trade.

"In consideration of the wishes of the Syrian side, the Soviet side will give favorable consideration to the question of selling to Syria machinery, equipment, raw materials and other goods, as well as the purchase by the Soviet Union of grain from this year's harvest and to increase their purchases of raw cotton and other goods," the communique said.

Washington Post
AUG 7 1957

Soviet Economic Aid To Syria Announced

MOSCOW, Aug. 7—Russia and Syria signed a joint communiqué here tonight after two weeks of talks between Soviet Government and army representatives and a Syrian delegation headed by Defense Minister Khalid al-Asam.

Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin attended a Soviet reception following the signing ceremony, his third official appearance in the last 48 hours. With him was Defense Minister Marshal Georgi Zaukov.

The communiqué said the Soviet Government "is prepared to cooperate with Syria in the construction of road and railways, irrigation, and the construction of hydroelectric power stations and other industrial projects."

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N. Y. Times
AUG 11 1957

SOVIET ARMS AID IN MIDEAST SEEN AIMED AT WEST

**Strong Syrian-Yemeni Units
Could Establish Russians
as Mediterranean Force**

By OSGOOD CARUTHERS

Special to The New York Times

CAIRO, Aug. 10.—The Soviet drive to build up the armies of Egypt, Syria and Yemen was viewed by diplomats in the Middle East today as a concerted effort to establish a powerful friendly force at the back door of the West's northern tier defenses.

The Soviet Union is reported to be supplying some of the latest model MIG-19 jet fighter planes to Egypt and Syria and is sending two submarines to the Syrians as a Mediterranean supplement to the three already delivered to Egypt.

Diplomats believe these deals are aimed at putting the Soviet Union in a new position as a major Mediterranean power.

Since Egypt could use her submarines in the Red Sea also, if she desired, and since the Soviet Union has been sending arms to Yemen, it is believed that the Kremlin is seeking at the same time to gain a strong foothold in the Red Sea area.

Syrian Deals Hold Foreboding

The Soviet Union's recently concluded deals with Syria are considered by diplomats to be the most ominous signs of this trend to appear thus far.

Whether the Soviet-equipped armies of Syria and Egypt would be maintained as strictly neutral or as pro-Soviet forces is considered academic. In either case they could most certainly be counted on to be against the vital interests of the West in the area.

By providing arms and long-term credits to the Syrians and Egyptians the Soviet Union has succeeded in gaining important allies at the rear of the West's Baghdad Pact area without having had to conclude military pacts or mutual defense treaties, distasteful to the followers of Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

The Baghdad pact is a defense alliance among Britain, Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan. The United States, while not a full-fledged member, actively supports the grouping and participates in its military staff organization.

It is the Baghdad Pact countries contiguous with the southern borders of the Soviet Union that are regarded as the West's Northern Tier of defense in the Middle East.

A team of Soviet jet pilots already is in the Middle East, sources said, shuttling between Syria and Egypt on regular schedule to train airmen of these two countries in night flying and other matters.

Probably of even greater importance from a long-range point of view is the reported new project whereby the Soviet Union has agreed to finance a long-term loan and help build a railway in Syria between Latakia and El Jasirah, an important agricultural center on the Euphrates River near the Turkish border.

The Soviet Union is also reported ready to help the Syrians construct a major highway linking Latakia, a seaport, with Aleppo and the interior along the Turkish frontier.

These projects were said to be part of an aid program valued at \$200,000,000, which the Syrians would pay back at low interest in twenty years.

According to Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo, the Syrians have contracted for at least six minor torpedo boats to add to the small fleet they already have based at Latakia.

These sources said Latakia was being developed as an important modern naval base. About forty officers and enlisted men of the Syrian Navy are being sent to the Polish North Sea base at Gdynia to "train" in operation of submarines and other naval craft, it was said.

A deal for the purchase of submarines, jets and other equipment was said to have been concluded during the recent visit to Moscow of the Syrian Defense Minister, Khaled el-Azm. The staunchly pro-Nasser Syrian also was reported to have obtained an agreement from the Soviet Government to extend the terms of payment for the arms from five years to ten at low interest rate.

It was also reported that he had negotiated with Marshal Georgi K. Zhukov, Soviet defense chief, an agreement to bring a top-ranking Soviet military team to Syria to advise on ways of modernizing her army.

From the Western point of view, development of Latakia as a submarine and torpedo boat base with links to the interior along the Turkish border could become a threat from the rear.

From Latakia, the Syrians could challenge the approaches to the Turkish naval base at Iskenderun (Alexandretta) which has been developed by the United States as an important Eastern Mediterranean anchor for the North Atlantic Treaty defenses.

In the Red Sea area, the Russians are reported to have unloaded seven shiploads of military equipment, probably small arms, ammunition, jeeps and some propeller-driven training planes for Yemen.

British observers reported they could watch the ships unloading from the island of Kamaran near the port of Salif. Travelers from Yemen confirmed the arrival of Soviet arms and said there were about forty Soviet technicians in Yemen to help train the forces of the ruling Imam.

Syria Plunges Into Red Debt

By Harry B. Ellis

Assistant Overseas News Editor of *The Christian Science Monitor*

So far Syria's dependence upon the Soviet Union appears to be benefiting the Communists a good deal more than it benefits the Syrians themselves.

This is true despite the fact that Khaled el-Azm, Syria's Acting Defense Minister, arrived home from Moscow Aug. 14 with a flatful of promises of increased Soviet technical, economic, and military aid to Syria.

There was ~~even~~ from Soviet officials that Syria would be allowed to defer payment on the nearly \$150,000,000 worth of Communist arms already received, as well as on the new aid promised during the El Azm visit.

Conspicuously lacking, however, was any evidence of cash aid, which the Syrian Government desperately needs to maintain its daily operations. Lacking sufficient cash to finance its

purchases from the Soviet bloc, Syria appears to be approaching a state of perennial debt to Moscow.

Clearly this is what the Soviets want, since it would make it difficult for any Syrian government to escape economic dependence upon the Communist bloc, and at the same time would strengthen the hand of those Syrians, within the Army and out, who argue that Moscow understands the goals of

the revolution and that the West does not.

Leftists Hold Reins

At present these leftist Syrians, riding on the wave of massive Soviet aid to their country, appear to be in virtual control of Syrian foreign and internal policy. Heading up the leftist groups is a Syrian Army headed by Lt. Col. Abdul Hamid Serra, chief of Army Intelli-

gence. A prominent civilian supporter of Army leftists is the Socialist Baath Party of Foreign Minister Salah Bitar.

Upon his return to Damascus, El Azm was quoted by Reuters as saying he told the Soviets: "We Syrians don't accept your Communist ideology, nor will we build our relations with you on the basis of communism."

This kind of statement would not be displeasing to Moscow, observers believe, since the Soviet Union always has paraded its aid to the Arabs on the basis of "government to government" business, rather than on ideology.

Under the cover of this brisk business appearance, the Soviets appear to have found what they want in Syria—an army willing to become Communist-equipped and Communist-trained—and a government willing to indent itself economically to the Soviets over a long period of time.

Lurking in the background of this situation is Khaled Bekdash, member of the Syrian Parliament, leader of the Syrian-Lebanese Community Party and allegedly the coordinator of internal Communist activities in the Arab world.

Dependence Shifts

An additional straw in the wind came Aug. 16 when newspapers in Beirut, Lebanon, reported that Col. Affi Bizim was likely to become Syrian Army Chief of Staff to replace Gen. Tewfik Nizamuddin, who resigned Aug. 15. Colonel Bizim was described by the Beirut press reports as a member of the Syrian Communist Party.

Qualitatively, Syria appears to have outstripped Egypt as the Arab country most dependent upon the Soviet bloc. It was Egypt which in July, 1955, forged an arms deal with Moscow that brought the Soviet Union into the Middle East as a direct participant in Arab affairs.

Egypt still is buying Communist arms and is believed to have purchased a greater quantity of Soviet weapons than Syria has to date. But President Nasser of Egypt has shown recent signs of desiring to taper off his trade deals with the Soviet Union and to restore his damaged economic relations with the countries of the West.

Wash Post
21 Aug 57

Washington Post

AUG 21 1957

**Report Says Soviet
Plans Syria Airfields**

PARIS, Aug. 20.—The independent evening newspaper, *France-Soir*, reported today that the Soviet Union will build eight airfields in Syria before 1960 and a further eight after that date.

The newspaper, quoting what it described as a "good source," said the building of the airfields was one of the main points of a secret agreement recently signed in Moscow between Syrian Defense Minister Khaled El-Azm and the Soviet Government.

The newspaper said that Russia also will deliver 120 planes to Syria: a wing of MIG-15 and a wing of MIG-17 jet fighters—fairly soon. Later the Soviet Union will deliver a wing of the latest MIG-19 jet fighters.

A French Foreign Ministry spokesman said he had no information when asked about reports that Russia is planning an air and submarine base in Syria.

Mr. A. Timan
AUG 24 1957

DAMASCUS DENIES FIRM SOVIET PACT

Says Date Has Not Been Set
for Starting Negotiations
—Leaders Modify Views

By ORGOOD CARUTHERS

Assigned to The New York Times

DAMASCUS, Syria, Aug. 23.—No final agreement on the proposed expansion of Soviet aid to Syria and Soviet-Syrian trade has yet been reached, Syrian officials said today.

Such an agreement is to be worked out "in long, detailed negotiations," the Syrians said, but no date has been set for them to begin.

These assertions, added to denials by principal Syrian officials that they were driving their country into the Soviet camp, suggested that extremely nationalistic leaders were taking a sober view of their situation.

No Policy Shift Discerned

There was no indication that they were retreating from their boldly outlined policy of a "greater understanding" with the Soviet bloc and a firmer opposition to Western policies in Middle East.

However, it would appear that Syrian leaders had got over the first flush of excitement at the Kremlin's sweeping offers of loans and technical experts to push through major development projects.

These offers were obtained earlier this month by Khalid el-Azm, Syria's Minister of Defense, during visits to the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia.

When the ambitious 60-year-old official returned, he proudly told his countrymen he had obtained outright pledges of help in building new roads, new railways, expanded port facilities and other projects. In addition, he said, the Soviet Union is ready to expand greatly its purchases of Syrian products.

Offers Held Only Tentative

Officials now say, however, that the Soviet offers were made only in a general way "to give Syria whatever help she might request for the development of her economy."

Existing trade and payments agreements between Syria and countries in the Soviet bloc will have to be revised to permit the Syrians to build up more credits. Syrian and Soviet experts will have to go over details of each project to determine needs, methods of payment and how great a share of the initial cost each side would have to pay.

Mr. el-Azm went to Moscow very much on his own initiative,

A Government spokesman said at the time that he had no special authority to conclude any hard and fast deals.

Although the Cabinet is reported to have approved what Mr. el-Azm has done, it was apparent that he did not confer with other Government leaders before he went.

Some Syrian leaders, while probably going along with the general lines of Mr. el-Azm's present policies, were said to be none too pleased with his having taken matters in his own hands so completely.

This seems to account for a tendency in Damascus now to tone down the whole picture. There are no signs that any of the men in power are in a mood to improve the souring relations with the United States, but they do, apparently want the world to believe that Syria has not become a Soviet satellite.

All the present Syrian leaders contend that it is the United States' policy of "supporting imperialism and Zionism in the Middle East" that has turned them against the West and driven them to seek the support of the Soviet Union.

Army Is Key Factor

What is causing the West deep concern is that Syria, at the back door of the Western defense system in the Middle East, is building up an army equipped by the Russians and therefore dependent upon the Soviet Union.

With such an army in the hands of officers and politicians of avowed anti-Western sentiments, some of whom, indeed, are quite enthusiastic about the new friendship with the East, the threat to Western aims in the area is obvious.

However, except so far as foreign policy is concerned, things have not yet developed to a point where Syria is irrevocably lost to the East.

Arab nationalism still is the predominating force in the country. Most of its supporters hope they will be able to strengthen an "Arab nation" (which would include Syria's neighbors) without becoming tied to either the Soviet Union or the United States.

Struggle Is Continuing

It is clear that the struggle for control in Syria has not reached a conclusive stage. Shifts in the army command have put the nation's security forces more firmly in the hands of young officers whose ideas are patterned after those of President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt.

In the political field, pro-Westerners, Right-Wingers and genuine moderates have little or no influence. However, in the coalition of politicians leading Syria along her present route are Socialists, Communists, pan-Arabists and extreme nationalists. The tugging and pulling among individuals and factions for control appears to be going on in the accepted Syrian fashion.

A swing to the West is the least of all possibilities.

Reports reaching New York yesterday indicated that more than 100 Syrian Army officers

had been arrested following last week-end's shake-up.

One of the factors that led to the changes was the demand of the Left Wing for the imposition of martial law. Martial law was in effect in Syria during the Suez crisis last fall and was lifted only a short time ago. General Bissri and Lieut. Col. Abdul Razid Serra, Chief of Intelligence, demanded that President al-Kuwatly reimpose it.

The President apparently did not sign the martial law order before leaving Damascus.

24 Aug 57

LAW INFORMATION AUGUST 24, 1957

Syrian Chessboard

FROM THE MIDDLE EAST SURVEYOR

A Soviet trade mission will soon visit Damascus. Its purpose will be to work out the details of the agreement in principle in Moscow during the visit of Khalid al-Sayyid, the Syrian minister of defense.¹ There is little known about the scope and nature of this agreement, but according to one unofficial account, the Syrians have had to give up the Soviet and Czech governments in account of arms deliveries set down by about 100,000,000 francs. In addition, there has been no confirmation of the earlier terms for payment, coupled with an unusual sum due in Syria amounting to about £10 million.² All accounts agree, however, that the payments will be closely associated with several major economic enterprises in Syria such as road and railway construction, irrigation and new industries. Improved relations will be made more thorough through which Soviet aircraft will be based in Syria. Syria will be an important part of the "Soviet Economic Co-operation" agreement. The nature of the new arrangements will be long-term Soviet aid, development in Syria, similar to the "Five-Year Plan" in association through the Point IV programme and also closer doctrinal with development in Lebanon.

The political consequences of the Moscow visit are still being played out. President Baquer al-Kuwaiti has come to demand his disqualification from the Egyptian presidency. His replacement is Dr. Nazzal, who is the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, who, according to the terms of the new constitution, would only be eligible to become president in the event of Saad al-Kuwaiti resigning or being debarred from the sweep. He is said by some sources to be an independent, although by others to be heavily in favor of the pro-Soviet party in Damascus. The field is cleared for Khalid al-Sayyid, now in full cry after the presidency. He is an old constitutional liberalizer in his party; however, perhaps for tactical demand he was appointed by a non-party, a military law, which was lifted in Damascus, Hama and the Jebel Druze by the May by-elections.

After the most important political results of the Moscow negotiations came the Soviet army. General Tufayl Nseim, who was seen as a moderate at the Syrian delegation in Moscow, was uncompromising about the terms of the accord and has resigned as chief of staff, to be succeeded by Colonel (now General) Ali Biaré. The latter was chairman

of the military tribunal which tried the right-wing conspirators in Ithriat and has since associated himself with the group of young officers commonly known as the Egyptian pattern, as the Revolutionary Command Council. Lieutenant Colonel Nafisi has been promoted deputy chief of staff. Lieutenant Colonel Sarra, hitherto the senior officer, retains his position as head of the army security service. Both are former supporters of the Shiekhly dictatorship; neither is as far to the left as General Biaré. Perhaps twenty officers with right-wing affiliations have been removed from their posts, mainly under arrest.

The stage seems set for another government. Virtually, the present coalition government was formed after the discovery of the plot in Jebel Druze with which several right-wing deputies were associated. The discovery of another plot in which the United States embassy is alleged to be involved may herald another change with still stronger left-wing participation. Perhaps the time has arrived for Ahmad Hauran, the Ba'ath Socialist leader, to leave the wings for the centre of the stage; he is being truly tipped as the next prime minister. Salah Butar, too quiet but determined former professor of history, will doubtless retain his post as foreign minister, thus prolonging the Ba'ath Socialist control of foreign affairs. The other Ba'ath Socialist in the present cabinet, Jukka al-Kayyani, who is minister of public works has done much to align the Syrian economy with the eastern bloc; may well gain promotion to a more important post.

Despite the brinksmanship at Syria from the west, the change of government is unlikely to strengthen the influence of the Syrian communist party. Its leader, Khalil Bakkash, is said to be out of favour with the Soviet government. He is doubtless fretting under Muscovite insistence that he should do nothing to disturb the good relations now existing between the Russians and the dominant elements in Syria. In view of the close and growing co-operation between Syria and the Soviet Union, this may be accepted as initial comment. But that is surely a superficial view. The freedom with which western publicity organs and official spokesmen have described Syria as a satellite and/or satellite state to a major contributory cause of the Syrian flirtation with Moscow. The Syrians may be forgiven for believing that they will never do right in western eyes, and that their best chance of being appreciated lies elsewhere.

THE OBSERVER, SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 1957

Russia Offers Syria Cheap Loan

Minister Says West's Rates Were Unfavourable

Expected Purge of Civil Service

From H. A. R. PHILBY

DAMASCUS, August 24

A LONG-TERM loan carrying 2.5 per cent. interest is the essence of the recent Soviet proposals for financing the expansion of the Syrian development programme, according to a statement made to-day by the Syrian Minister of Public Works, Fakher al Hayyali.

The Soviet Government also expressed willingness to buy a considerable part of Syria's exportable surpluses of wheat and barley, paying as to half in hard currencies and half by the supply of machinery and technical equipment.

The Minister stated that before going to Prague and Moscow, Syria had approached several West European Governments and the International Bank for the necessary finance, but that the terms offered were unfavourable.

Some European Governments, according to the Minister, offered short-term loans at 7 per cent., while the International Bank asked 5 per cent. interest and also claimed the right to choose which firms should participate in development projects.

The Minister added that Soviet technicians would enter Syria to implement schemes which, he claimed, should do much finally to dispense the economic crisis that overhung Syria last winter.

Tranquil Air in Damascus

The return of President Kauwati from Egypt, announced for to-morrow, is likely to calm the excitement aroused outside Syria by the recent changes among the senior officers of the Syrian Army. It is officially stated in Damascus that the President personally signed the decrees which removed General Nizamuddin from the post of Chief of Staff in favour of General Alf Buzi, and the President has confirmed the truth of the statement from Egypt.

Evidently, if he felt any unease about the changes he does not consider them worth a political crisis involving the Presidency. Damascus to-day has every appearance of tranquillity, and even right-wing Syrians are bewildered by the near-hysteria of earlier reports of the situation put out from neighbouring Arab capi-

tals. The next few days will see the departure for Moscow of Hassan al Jidarah, an outstanding Civil Servant and now head of the Economic Promotion Council (commonly called the Development Board). His mission will be to work out details of the agreements recently negotiated by Khalid al Azm with Moscow. It is an open secret in Damascus that the Government by their scope and caused momentary resentment against the Defence Minister's free-lance achievement.

Not a Communist Group

At the same time they could hardly be repudiated, especially as some of them promise the fulfilment of ambitious development projects planned long ago, but held up for lack of finance. Such a one is the Yusuf Pasha Dam on the Euphrates, which is expected to open up 300,000 hectares of cultivable land besides meeting some of the industrial needs of Aleppo.

The immediate significance of the recent changes in Syria is that the group of Army officers led by General Alf Buzi, Colonel Natifi, and Colonel Sarraj have now achieved complete control of all armed forces. In the Army, all officers opposing

them have been removed from their commands. Moreover, they have extended their control to the gendarmerie and police by appointing Brigadier Jamal Faisal to be acting commander of the former and Lt.-Col. Abdullah Jasuma acting director of the latter—for both men belong to the same group.

The group whose long struggle for power has thus been crowned with success does not consist of Communists, according to the best-informed Western sources here. Their closest civilian allies are the Baath Socialists—a much stronger party—who are now expected to carry out a purge of the Civil Service to match the Army purge just completed.

Crop Sales to the West

But while the new men in power are not Communists, they do regard Soviet aid as essential to the well-being of the Syrian Army, which they identify—not unnaturally—with the well-being of Syria. The view that Syria has no friends in the West and that she has no choice but an Eastern orientation is certainly widespread here.

How far the final agreements will bring Syria into a position of long-term economic dependence on the Soviet bloc is as yet difficult to assess. Certainly reports that Syria was forced into the new alignment by near-bankruptcy are not borne out by the facts of her foreign trade position.

Half the barley crop has already been sold to Western customers—Western Germany, Denmark, Belgium and Italy. Almost the whole of last year's cotton crop has been sold—one third of it to France, one third to the Soviet bloc and the rest elsewhere. Wool exports, chiefly to the United States, have also been well maintained.

The chief remaining problem is Syria's wheat surplus, now amounting to nearly 400,000 tons. The alternatives under consideration are a triangular deal with Italy and Egypt, by which Syria would sell hard wheat to Italy, Italy a corresponding amount of soft wheat to Egypt, and Egypt would repay Syria by hitherto unspecified means—or a big deal with Russia under which the latter would take the bulk of the Syrian surplus.

The overall picture would seem to be that the Soviet bloc share in Syria's trade is certainly growing, but that the share of Syria's exports taken by Western countries remains far too substantial to make unilateral dependence on the Soviets either necessary or desirable for her.—Copyright,

THE WASHINGTON POST and TIMES HERALD
A 8 Wednesday, August 28, 1957

Syrian Group Flies to Russia

DAMASCUS, Syria, Aug. 27 (UPI)—A 3-man delegation flew to Moscow today to iron out details of what Syria calls a preliminary economic agreement with the Soviet Union.

The delegation's flight so soon after disclosure of the agreement on Aug. 6 led to the Western observation that the Kremlin had worked with unprecedented speed in winding up technical examination of the cost and scope of the promised aid. The report from Moscow said the Syrian delegation may make terms of the agreement final.

The Syrian government said the agreement would not be formalized until it is approved by the cabinet in Damascus.

Announcement of the mission, led by the Development Council director, Hassan Jbara, said that it would discuss with the Kremlin proposed projects in Syria and the approximate costs.

As described in a joint communiqué the agreement calls for Russia to provide tools, equipment, machinery and technicians for Syrian projects. These projects include development of the Port of Latakia and construction of dams and railroads.

Government officials said Soviet technicians would come along with the equipment but the work on the projects would be done by Syrians.

Syria insists that it turned to the Soviets because it could not obtain economic aid from the West without strings attached.

Other projects, according to Reuters, are an oil refinery, a chemical plant, artesian wells, and a survey of natural resources. Machinery and technical aid envisaged under the agreement are valued at \$140 million. This sum would be repaid at 2½ per cent interest over an unspecified period of time by selling wheat and cotton to the Soviet Union.]

Meanwhile, Salah Tarazi, Secretary-General of the Syrian Foreign Ministry, met NEW YORK, Aug. 27 (UPI) with the Turkish minister in Syria to "exchange information about the situation in Turkey." Asked if this meant the two have considered Syria the

would discuss the visit to Turkey of U. S. trouble-shooter Loy Henderson, Tarazi replied, "Maybe."

In Beirut, Lebanon, the government announced that three Arab Kings—Saud of Saudi Arabia, Hussein of Jordan and Faisal of Iraq—will meet in the Lebanese capital Sept. 9 with President Camille Chamoun.

Diplomatic sources in London estimated the Kremlin has dispatched 350 military advisers to Syria along with \$85 million in arms. This, they said, is in addition to the \$56 million worth of arms shipments before the Suez invasion last fall.

The sources said Syria's stockpile of Russian arms now includes 200 T34 tanks, 59 self-propelled guns, 200 armored troop carriers, 120 122-mm. field guns, 60 antiaircraft guns,

70 MIG15 and MIG17 fighter planes and an unspecified number of motor torpedo boats.

They said more Communist arms, including two submarines and 120 more planes, are expected to be sent to Syria as a result of the visit of Syrian Defense Minister Khaled el-Azem to Moscow earlier this month.

Army Head, Cabinet Discuss Syria Changes

Associated Press
Khaled el-Azem, acting defense minister of Syria, is shown at his news conference with Western news men.

No. 1 problem in the Middle East."

Suat Hayri Urguplu, en route to Washington with his wife and 21-year-old son, remarked that "close cooperation between all the countries concerned (in the Syrian problem) is absolutely necessary. We will do everything to keep the peace in the Middle East." Urguplu said his country was still strongly anti-Communist. He explained that the Communist Party was outlawed in Turkey and that all Azem to Moscow earlier this month. admiration for the United States.

Army Head, Cabinet Discuss Syria Changes

Syrian Spokesman Denies Serov Visit

DAMASCUS, Syria, Aug. 27 (UPI)—Three members of the Syrian Cabinet met today with the newly-appointed army chief of staff, Maj. Gen. Afif Bazzi, to discuss reorganization of the state's administration.

The meeting was held in commenting on foreign press reports that Serov had made a secret visit to Syria during the recent crisis, said the minister of public works and called Serov has ever visited Syria nor is there anybody by that name here now.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabian Ambassador Abd al-Aziz bin Zeid, who has just returned from Riyadh, called on Prime Minister Sabri el-Assali and later met Foreign Minister Salah el-Bitar.

The Ambassador said he was not aware of any proposal for King Saud to meet the Jordanian and Iraqi kings in Beirut.



Associated Press
Khaled el-Azem, acting defense minister of Syria, is shown at his news conference with Western news men.

New Turkish Envoy Pledges Peace Effort

NEW YORK, Aug. 27 (UPI)—The new Turkish ambassador to the United States said today that "from the beginning

Asked if this meant the two have considered Syria the